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DAILY REPORT

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U.S. CONDUCTS CRUISE MISSILE TEST OVER CANADA

LD011853 Moscow TASS in English 1843 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 1 TASS -- The Pentagon today carried out a new cruise missile flight test over Canada's northern areas. The cruise missile launched from the B-52 bomber over the Beaufort Sea flew 2,400 kilometers over Canadian territory and parachuted 240 kilometers east of Edmonton, UPI news agency reports.

The missile flight lasted almost four hours. This test was similar to the one conducted on February 24 and, according to statements by officials, the concluding test this year.

A total of eight tests of U.S. cruise missiles were carried out since 1983 when an agreement was concluded converting Canadian territory into a vast Pentagon test range.

DELEGATION TO UK REITERATES GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL

LD051746 Moscow TASS in English 1734 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] London March 5 TASS -- The Soviet delegation led by Academician Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, who had arrived here at the invitation of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London to attend a "round-table" meeting, today gave a press conference.

Questions from journalists about the statement of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, bespoke a positive attitude to the Soviet initiative for the immediate conclusion of a separate agreement on medium-range missiles. The Soviet delegation noted that there existed for such a step not merely a basis but a ready-to-sign agreement: It had been agreed in Reykjavik that the USSR and the U.S. would abolish all their medium-range missiles in Europe within five years.

The members of the delegation also drew attention to the fact that as soon as an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe was signed, the USSR would withdraw from the GDR and Czechoslovakia, by agreement with the governments of those countries, the long-range theatre missiles deployed there as a countermeasure to the stationing of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe. The USSR, contrary to the allegations made by some quarters in the West, is also prepared to enter talks on the reduction and total elimination of other theatre missiles, as Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, noted in his statement. At the same time the USSR is by no means avoiding the issue of conventional arms.

One of the journalists attempted to link the timing of the Soviet statement to the U.S. domestic political situation.

The Soviet Union has no intention of influencing that situation or exploiting it in any way for its own purposes, the members of the delegation stressed.

Proposal Released at UN

LD050306 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] New York March 5 TASS -- The United Nations has released the text of a statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, as an official document of the General Assembly and the U.N. Security Council. The statement, made on February 28 this year, concerns medium-range missiles in Europe.

TASS: Reagan on 'Breakthrough'

LD052158 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2125 GMT Mar 87

[Text] Washington, 6 March (TASS) -- Addressing members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors on Thursday, President Reagan described the Soviet proposal to examine the issue of an agreement on intermediate-range missiles separately from the other spheres of arms control [kontrol nad vooruzheniyami] as "a huge breakthrough." He stated that he will be meeting the leaders of the U.S. delegation at the USSR-U.S. negotiations in Geneva, Kampelman, Leman and Glitman, as early as Friday and will discuss with them "the U.S. response to the Soviet statement." At the same time, Reagan again proclaimed the United States determination to continue implementation of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

MOSCOW TV: 'SUSPICIONS' LINGER ON U.S. ATTITUDE

LD052055 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1540 GMT 5 Mar 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] Hello comrades, a very interesting situation is now developing within the Moscow-Washington-Geneva triangle. The latest statement of Comrade Gorbachev regarding medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe caused a stream of positive emotions, so to speak, in the whole world. Washington was then forced to react. Reagan's speech on Tuesday, saying he welcomed the statement of the Soviet leader, is already known to you. It has been discussed. The U.S. delegation to Geneva yesterday submitted its draft treaty on medium-range nuclear weapons and now, the leadership of the U.S. delegation is to obtain in Washington additional instructions from the President so that -- so to speak, as Reagan him-self said -- on its return to Geneva, the U.S. delegation will be able to commence detailed talks on the working out of an agreement on reducing of medium-range nuclear weapons.

It might be possible to consider all this as good signals at the end of a black tunnel, in which at long last can be seen a ray of light, and world is once again indebted to our country for this new gleam of hope. I would talk about all this with the feeling of absolute satisfaction; however, I do not consider that the time to shout hurray and bang the drums has arrived. Still, a certain feeling of suspicion, you know, will not vanish. It has been caused, let us say, by the fact, that following the support for the Soviet initiative, voices reminding then and there about the necessity for strict monitoring [kontrol] and verification [proverka] were heard in the United States and also in Western Europe. This used to happen on more than one occasion when our opponents wanted to protract the talks or to evade answering clear questions.

Concern is caused also by the fact that an old thesis is heard in some places: If U.S. medium-range missiles are removed from Western Europe, then this continent will remain, so to speak, defenseless in the face of Soviet supremacy -- a mythical one, which exists only in the falsified calculations of NATO headquarters, as well as the Soviet supremacy in conventional weapons. In particular, General Rogers, who is finishing his tour as the general commander of the NATO forces, rushed to speak on this topic. [video shows a brief clip of General Rogers speaking]

In a word there appeared to be positive changes in the recent days, but the Cold War warriors have not calmed down and this still gives rise to some anxiety. We shall await further development of events.

USSR, U.S. HOLD CHEMICAL WEAPONS TALKS

LD052150 Moscow TASS in English 2143 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva TASS -- Soviet-American consultations on all the aspects of the problem of concluding an effective and controllable convention on the universal and complete banning of chemical weapons were held here from February 16 to March 5.

The Soviet side was represented at the consultations by Yuriy Nazarkin, head of the Soviet delegation at the disarmament conference. The American side was represented by Lyn Hansen, acting head of the U.S. delegation at the disarmament conference.

Nazarkin: U.S. Hindering Talks

LD051903 Moscow TASS in English 1848 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva March 5 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korzhev reports:

The issue of prohibition of chemical weapons occupies a special place at the current session of the conference on disarmament. Many delegations believe that agreement on a relevant international convention can be reached as early as this year. This idea was expressed by the representatives of Czechoslovakia, Kenya, Nigeria and Yugoslavia at the recent meetings.

Also Pugliese, head of the delegation of Italy, said today that the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction was an important task in eyes of all countries.

As to verification difficulties, they should be surmounted in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill. In this respect the Italian delegation considers the Soviet proposals tabled in mid-February to be useful, he said.

Yuriy Nazarkin, head of the delegation of the U.S.S.R., today made a number of additional remarks on individual aspects of the proposed convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all types of chemical weapons and on their destruction. The purpose of this move is to ensure an early agreement of its text.

At the same time the Soviet representative noted that the U.S. delegation was making efforts to hinder the talks and to evade the search for mutually beneficial agreements, while the Soviet Union demonstrated a constructive approach and was making efforts to bring the positions closer together and find solutions to various complicated issues.

Nazarkin said that the Soviet Union was a principled advocate of an early and complete elimination of chemical weapons and the industrial base for their manufacture and for that reason called upon other parties to the talks to make necessary steps to contribute to their successful completion.

MIKHAYLOV ADDRESSES MBFR PLENARY MEETING

LD051147 Moscow TASS in English 1058 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna March 5 TASS — V.V. Mikhaylov, head of the Soviet delegation to the talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, addressed a plenary meeting of the talks here today.

He drew the attention of the parties to the talks to the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on February 28, 1987 in which the Soviet Union proposed to single out the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe from the package of issues discussed in Reykjavik and to conclude a separate agreement on that problem without delay.

The Soviet representative emphasized the importance of the new major Soviet initiative going in the direction of the practical implementation of the Soviet program for the stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. He also noted that an agreement on medium-range missiles would mean such a change in the international situation which would give an impetus to the talks and to the search for mutually acceptable solutions in other areas of the limitation of the arms race and disarmament, including the domain of conventional weapons.

BOGACHEV ON VARIED U.S. ARMS CONTROL STANCES

LD051549 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar (TASS) — TASS military affairs observer Vladimir Bogachev writes:

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has publicly welcomed the proposal by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on medium-range missiles, saying that Washington is preparing a detailed draft of an appropriate treaty, to be based on a specific formula agreed last October during the summit meeting in Reykjavik.

At the same time and despite the White House statements about the U.S. Administration's desire to follow undeviatingly the formula adopted in Reykjavik, Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, points out that a "bitter pill" is being prepared for the USSR. Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger demands that the U.S. side should depart from the Reykjavik accords, and that it should prevent even a minimal number of Soviet missiles being in Asia.

Reports have appeared in the press to the effect that the U.S. Administration is inclined toward the insertion into the U.S. draft of a clause on "the stiffest demands ever put forward by the United States." The newspaper reports that the United States intends to propose patently unacceptable harsh measures for "verifying compliance with the agreement," which were secretly approved a month ago by Frank Carlucci, the President's national security adviser. A central part of the proposals is to be the inspection of Soviet factories and, as THE WASHINGTON POST puts it, "unprecedented access to secret military bases." The U.S. press has been intensively inflating the issue of allegedly "insuperable complications" regarding the verification of compliance with a future agreement. Richard Perle, Weinberger's assistant and a fierce opponent of any accords with the USSR, has been stating that "verification is not difficult or even not very difficult. It is simply impossible."

While verbally expressing satisfaction at the fact that the Soviet Union is now proposing that the problem of medium-range missiles be separated from the block of questions at the negotiations, Washington officials have straightaway been submitting a demand for a new "NATO package," which would include the problems of conventional arms and armed forces, chemical weapons and so forth. Meanwhile they are well aware that appropriate USSR proposals on these very issues are lying on the negotiating table. These issues can be resolved given the goodwill of NATO leaders, without harming the security of any country.

Any serious talks represent a constant search for mutually acceptable solutions. Arms control negotiations are a search for compromises which would lower the level of military confrontation and would not impinge on the interests of security of the participating countries. The current Washington debates on the Soviet proposals bring to mind the thought that some people within the U.S. Administration are certainly not concerned with finding solutions during the talks but, on the contrary, are striving to erect artificial barriers which would render impossible the implementation of the medium-range missiles accord agreed in Reykjavik.

The U.S. press to notes the differences within the U.S. Administration. Thus prominent observer James Reston in an article entitled "Reagan's Last Chance", expresses the opinion that "it would be useful if Ronald Reagan settled the disputes within his cabinet surrounding the issue of control over nuclear arms. He has made the first steps, welcoming Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal. A new approach to the Congress is needed; it is to ratify the agreement that will be concluded."

PONOMAREV ON 'COLD WAR, NEW POLITICAL THINKING'

LD041627 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

On March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill delivered in the presence of U.S. President Harry Truman a thunderous anti-Soviet speech in the small American town of Fulton, Missouri. That speech launched the policy of the cold war, which was the last for decades.

Since that time American Presidents and politicians have been exercising in anti-Sovietism on their own, without tutors. I mention this speech here only because many Western leaders are still thinking in the cold war categories, whereas our time imperatively demands a new mode of thinking.

Almost two generations have grown up since the Fulton speech and new people have emerged onto the political scene. But what is more important, mankind discovered ways of annihilating both itself and the globe as a whole. It has piled up mountains of nuclear weapons. People are facing the choice between survival and mutual annihilation. The Soviet leaders believe that however immense the threat of nuclear catastrophe, there is no fatal inevitability of war and mankind and be saved from self-annihilation.

This can be acheived through the abolition of nuclear weapons all over the world, which the Soviet Union is suggesting, and as early as the end of the current century. This process is complex and difficult but, as Reykjavik demonstrated, accords for nuclear disarmament are possible and inevitable. A qualitatively new situation has emerged in the world since Reykjavik.

That is why the Soviet Union, guiding itself by a sense of great responsibility to the world, calls for a search for mutually acceptable decisions in the interests of non-nuclear and non-violent world.

It is claimed in the United States and Western Europe that the Soviet Union wants the elimination of nuclear wepaons merely to secure superiority in conventional armaments. This is not so because the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Treaty allies put forward last year a proposal for comprehensive and deep cuts in the arms forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. But the NATO countries have not yet responded to that proposal.

The new political thinking, which has supllanted cold war policy, is catching up with people and asserting itself in the practice of international relations. This was forcefully demonstrated by the recent international forum "For Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity" in Moscow. People of different political persuasions, world outlooks and faiths who gathered at the Forum were profoundly convinced that a nuclear-free world could be achieved by joint efforts.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA VIEWS U.S. SDI SPENDING PLANS

PM271549 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Feb 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Billions on SDI"]

[Text] Washington, 26 Feb -- The Reagan administration is sharply pushing ahead with the development [razrabotka] of the latest arms systems intended for deployment within the framework of "Star Wars" program. This is attested by its financial requests for upcoming years.

Thus, in fiscal 1988 the administration has asked Congress for $5.68 billion for the "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI) program, compared with $3.5 billion in the current fiscal year. A year later -- in fiscal 1989 -- the sum will grow to $6.8 billion according to White House requests.

The Pentagon intends to devote particular attention in the next few years to the accelerated creation [sozdaniye] of key SDI strike systems. It is planned to sharply increase spending on the development [razrabotka] of strike systems using kinetic energy. In the next fiscal year alone $303.5 million -- 140 percent more than in the current fiscal year -- have been allocated for these purposes. [paragraph continues]

Another large sum, $357.4 million, has been requested for fiscal 1989 for the development [nazrabotka] of "space killers" -- special space-based interceptor missiles. The Pentagon intends to stage practical experiments this year as part of their development [sozdaniye]. In a Tuesday conversation with correspondents from THE NEW YORK TIMES U.S. Secretary of Defense C. Weinberger stated in this regard that the tests "will promote the deployment of an ABM defense with space-based elements by the start of 1994."

As part of the administration's request it is planned to increase appropriations for the creation [sozdaniye] of an "exo-atmospheric" ABM system -- the ERIS interceptor -- by more than 100 percent, to $221 million next year and to $308 million in fiscal 1989. This ground-launched system is considered by the Pentagon to be one of the most promising systems for the first echelon of a "multilayered" ABM defense. Spending on the creation [sozdaniye] the HFDI ground-launched missile interceptor, which is designed to destroy warheads during their re-entry phase, will also more than double in the next fiscal year -- to $238 million.

The administration also intends to spend enormous sums on the creation [sozdaniye] of various types of "exotic" systems, particularly laser and particle-beam weapons. In th next fiscal year $558 million are to be allocated for the development [razrabotka] of a free-electron laser and a space-based neutral particle accelerator alone.

Nor has the Pentagon forgotten about the development [razrabotka] of new enhanced-payload launchers, for which several hundred million dollars have been requested for each of the next few years.

Although the Reagan administration continues to claim in public that its "Star Wars" program is "nonnuclear in nature," in actual fact the creation [sozdaniye] of nuclear power plants for deployment in space is becoming one of the main areas for financing within the SDI framework. The Reagan administration would like to spend $158 million in fiscal 1988 and another $187 million in fiscal 1989 on these purposes.

SHEVARDNADZE MESSAGE TO L. AMERICAN AGENCY

PM271515 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Greetings Message"]

[Text] Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze has sent A. Stempel Paris, secretary general of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), a greetings message, which reads as follows:

"Esteemed Mr Secretary General,

"I greet you and, through you, the states party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America [Tlatelolco Treaty] on its 20th anniversary.

"This was the first international agreement legally enshrining nuclear-free status in an extensive, densely populated region and has served as a serious barrier to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It began the process of turning various regions of the world into nuclear-free zones, a process that is gathering momentum. [paragraph continues]

"The treaty declaring the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone was a graphic example of the vitality of the process. The USSR was the first nuclear power to express its readiness to act as guarantor of the zone's nuclear-free status by signing the relevant treaty protocols.

"As a consistent supporter of the creation of nuclear-free zones, the Soviet Union is deeply convinced that progress in this sphere undoubtedly accords with the task of strengthening the system of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, preventing nuclear war, creating a climate of international trust and detente, and eliminating nuclear weapons.

"Having signed and ratified the Tlatelolco Treaty's supplementary Protocol II, the USSR has strictly abided by its commitments and firmly advocated that Latin America's nuclear-free status be strengthened.

"The activity of states party to the treaty is particularly important in the light of the urgent need to build a nuclear-free world. As is well known, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, proposed in his statement of 15 January 1986 a detailed action program to completely destroy nuclear weapons and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction everywhere by the end of the century. This program underwent further creative development in the Soviet proposals at the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Reykjavik, whose results are today the common asset of all countries and peoples.

"The growing awareness of the international public and all honest people, irrespective of ideological or political differences, of the urgent need to seek practical ways of removing the nuclear threat and ensuring mankind's survival is reflected today in the activity of the nonaligned countries, the 'Delhi Six' states, and many international organizations and in the growth of mass antiwar movements.

"I would like to express my confidence that the parties to the treaty will continue to actively promote the development of cooperation to rid the world of nuclear weapons and establish an all-embracing international security system."

LATE REPORT: USSR ENVOY DEMANDS NEGOTIATIONS

FL060434 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0105 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City, 5 March (NOTIMEX) -- Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev has said if the U.S. Government does not accept the disarmament proposals presented, the Soviet Union will respond with increased defense research and systems, making way for a new arms race.

During a news conference, the diplomat said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev presented a proposal to President Ronald Reagan for a prompt, separate agreement that would eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe and limit each country to 100 warheads, which the Soviet Union would keep in Asia and the United States would keep on its own territory, which indicates this is separate from the matters being discussed at the disarmament negotiations in Geneva.

The diplomat stressed his country demanded immediate negotiations for the complete elimination of tactical operational missiles from arsenals.

The USSR, Sergeyev said, is committed to withdrawing long-range tactical operational missiles from the GDR and CSSR the moment the agreement is signed eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missilees in Europe. He said these missiles were placed in those countries in response to the increase of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

The Soviet Ambassador said his country's leadership considers it necessary that the economic and human resources assigned to weapons be redirected to economic and social development.

Sergeyev warned that U.S. reactionary forces are trying to prevent any kind of agreement with the Soviets so that the two nations can continue their road to confrontation without reaching an agreement. These reactionary forces promote the arms race and wrong humanity, he said.

The ambassador recalled that the USSR declared a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests for a period of 1 and 1/2 years. During this time, he added, the United States conducted close to 30 tests. Not having observed any change in U.S. policy, he said, the USSR decided to renew their experiments. He said the moratorium demonstrated to the world that it is possible to check the arms race when the political will exists.

Nevertheless, he warned, if an agreement is not reached, the Soviet Union will develop defense systems similar or better than those of the United States in space, land,or under water and the Soviet Union has demonstrated that it can achieve the same level of efficiency or an even better one.

Finally, Sergeyev accused the U.S. Government of practicing state terrorism by attempting to kill a foreign leader and a Nicaraguan guerrilla leader. He said this seriously affects international relations, especially with his country.

SHIRYAYEV ON CEMA REFORMS, ENTERPRISE COOPERATION

AU021405 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 21 Feb 87 p 5

[Interview with Yuriy Shiryayev, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and direcor of CEMA's International Economic Research Institute, by Istvan Matko and Hanna Szalay: "CEMA Under Reforms -- The Monetary System Needs Revaluation -- National Interests and Integration"; date and place not given. First paragraph is newspaper's introduction]

[Text] This week the Ministry of Industry was the venue of an interesting conference. Soviet and Hungarian experts discussed the new conditions of enterprise cooperation and the role that CEMA integration would play in this. We asked Yuriy Shiryayev, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and director of CEMA's International Economic Research Institute, about the reform of socialist cooperation.

[Correspondents] Recently we have heard more and more about the need to reform CEMA. In what way should this take place and in what sequence?

[Shiryayev] The problems of CEMA are not new; the issue is long overdue. Experience shows that we generally make good decisions, but we carry them out badly. Let us start with planning in CEMA. Nowadays we have at our disposal the resolution of our party leaders from last year, which points out how the versatile and comprehensive concept of cooperation among CEMA member-states should be drawn up. The work on this concept is going at full speed at the moment. I think that we will be able to see at least a draft of this concept within a year.

We need this very urgently, because the concept of coordinating national plans has changed completely. Nowadays, not only states but even branches and enterprises are involved directly in cooperation. These entities are independent economic units that need correct guidance toward the goals of our states.

The Essence of the Concept [subhead]

[Correspondents] In other words, would the first stage of reform refer to planning?

[Shiryayev] No, this is not a matter of stages. Of course, all aspects will have some stages and the concept itself must be detailed, but the task today is to work out a general concept. Previously, the top leadership met on the coordination of plans and agreed upon the mutual deliveries for 5 years, yet we know that these deliveries often remained unfulfilled. Nowadays, we must place plan coordination on a more solid basis at all levels of the national economy, which means that planning becomes more important even on branch and enterprise levels. It is well-known that a radical reform will be completed soon in the Soviet Union on managing foreign economic relations. Soviet enterprises were granted extensive rights in this field. Of course, they must learn how to use these rights. To put it more simply, at the moment, three levels of the concept of planning cooperation are taking shape, and this concept will be vitally different from the old one. We will continue to coordinate the plans on the macro-level where the contingencies [kontingesck] are of strategic importance. Nobody wants to dispense with this. However, the contingencies of branches and sub-branches are softer [puhabb]. In this respect, only certain guidelines will be given, and the units themselves will decide how the exchanges take place. Finally, the so-called soft contingencies will be dealt with in the everyday operation of enterprises.

What Is Transferred by the Transferrable Ruble [subhead]

[Correspondents] Would you not find it necessary to introduce a radical monetary reform and a more efficient means of transmitting values than today's transferable ruble? Would you not find it necessary for various national branches and enterprises to develop direct financial relationships with each other?

[Shiryayev] I have begun with the coordination of planning but could have started from the other end as well. The outdated currency and monetary system and the old organizational structure are confusing for us in improving cooperation. Obviously, currency and monetary problems also must be solved efficiently. Last time I was in Sopron, where monetary experts regularly meet, I made a proposal: "Honored colleagues, we have been talking a lot; it is high time to form a good team, which would collect all propoals referring to the renewal of the currency and monetary mechanism." The team indeed was formed and made a good proposal.

The essence of the problems is as follows: If we have a tri-level cooperation system, we cannot be satisfied with one accounting unit, the transferrable ruble. We need the transferrable ruble to finance the so-called hard [ugynevezeh kemeny] contingencies, the exchange of strategic commodities. Everybody agrees with this and nobody argues about it, because it is the general view that the transferrable ruble fulfills this role very well. However, the transferrable ruble cannot serve enterprises the same way. This means that we must enrich the monetary market of CEMA countries with a new currency and monetary system. I am thinking about both currency and credit instruments. The three-tier structure of the economic mechanism also must take place in this field. I think that in addition to the transferrable ruble, we also need a special transferrable ruble covered by suitable reserves, which would play the role of a commercial currency. I also am thinking in terms of using national currencies for accounting between enterprises. National currencies have their own weaknesses, but they have the enormous advantage of having concrete names and concrete guarantees. To summarize, it seems necessary to use several means of currency on the CEMA market. The same refers to credits. This makes it clear that CEMA requires a currency and monetary reform.

A reform also is required regarding the organizational structure. It is often said in the West, and not only in the West, that this organization was established for political reasons, that it is a political organization and does not deal with economic issues. Such a view is based on ignorance. Actually, CEMA deals with details. So far, most of the CEMA agencies have been branch committees. If they could not deal with something, they referred it to a higher level. Taking a look at the agenda of an executive session, one can see that it is full of the problems of branches. In the present circumstances, there is not need for this. Enterprises and branches must come to agreements themselves and solve their own problems! And CEMA must become the true staff headquarters of economic cooperation.

CEMA must work out proposals on further deepening economic cooperation. Of course, these proposals must not be without foundations.

Creating Incentives [subhead]

[Correspondents] Would it not be necessary in CEMA to increase the efforts for integration? For instance, as we see in the EEC...

[Shiryayev] The Commission of European Economic Communities is a significant organization within the EEC, which advocates the idea of integration. [paragraph continues]

The participants of its sessions discuss the issues from a national point of view, whether they can accept them or not. To a certain extent, the European Parliament has begun to fulfill a similar role. In CEMA, however, all agencies have up to now represented national interests! In other words, there has been no official representation of the idea of integration. In fact, this function has been carried out, in our case, by our parties. When they meet, our party leaders work out the principled decisions on developing integration. Of course, direct comparison cannot be made between the EEC and CEMA. It is impossible to transport the model of EEC onto the foundation of CEMA, but it could prove useful if we studied some of its technicalities...

The structural set up of CEMA must be changed considerably to make it fit to play by the rules of the game and to deal with proposals for deepening integration. The CEMA apparatus needs to be further condensed, and needs the support of science from all socialist countries. However perfect CEMA might become, we cannot expect to be successful if conditions are not created in each country for enterprises and branch agencies to consider participation in the integration as being in their own interest. This will require the creation of suitable incentives within national economic mechanisms. In this respect, a radical reform of the management of Soviet foreign economic relations is an enormous step forward.

CEMA SECRETARY SYCHEV ON 'PROGRESS' GAS PIPELINE

AU031511 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 24 Feb 87 pp 1,3

[Interview with CEMA Secretary Vyacheslavk Sychev by G. Buchvarov and V. Asparukhov: "The Great Cooperation of the Socialist Community" based on a "Joint Publication" of OTECHSTVEN FRONT and DRUZHBA; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

In an office on the 18th floor of CEMA Headquarters, where operational sessions take place, we sat around an enormous roundtable and talked to high-ranking CEMA workers and officials as well as to CEMA Secretary Vyacheslav Sychev. This is how this energetic man described the gigantic "Progress" pipeline project:

[Sychev] The new pipeline, which will be set up along with the presently functioning "Soyuz" and "Urengoy-Pomari-Uzhgorod" pipelines, will begin in the underground deposits of Yamburg, situated in the immense swampy area near the Ob Gulf. The gigantic construction project will expand along a distance of 4605 km. The pipes along are 1420 mm in diameter, which is almost unique in the world, approximately 3 million tons. The pipeline will be supplied with 40 compressors which will pump gas for consumers day and night. The pipeline will cross 160 large and small rivers, hundreds of highways and railroad lines, and numerous swamps. However, as early as 1989 the Yamburg gas will reach the western borders of the USSR.

[Correspondents] How would you describe the essential meaning of this new form of cooperation among our countries?

[Sychev] I would like once more to point out that the socialist countries until now have not undertaken a task of this scope. For a long period of 26 years the socialist countries, which are participating in the construction of this complicated project, will be supplied with Soviet gas for compensation. In years to come the "blue fuel" will be delivered to them in exchange for their exports to the Soviet Union. [paragraph continues]

We signed agreements with those countries for the construction of the gas pipeline and specific work has already started on certain sections of the pipeline.

[Correspondents] How can you describe the results of this work for the socialist economy?

[Sychev] This new energy bridge along the pipeline connecting Western Siberia with Eastern Europe will permit the European CEMA member-countries to receive reliable, stable, and long-term natural gas deliveries. This will guarantee an important step in solving the fuel and energy problems of the fraternal countries. "Progress" is an important, new manifestation in the consolidation of socialist economic integration.

[Correspondents] What about Bulgaria's participation?

[Sychev] The comprehensive cooperation between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union increasingly determines the joint policy of drawing together between the two fraternal countries. As Comrade Todor Zhivkov pointed out in his introductory speech to the 13th BCP Congress, our cooperation is "entering a qualitatively new stage of development and exceptionally great opportunities are open to this cooperation on various levels and in different sectors." We can state today that our two countries have accumulated great experience in coping with their economic tasks. As to the solution of problems, the dimensions, and the complicated character which demand that their practical implementation should be linked to increasing development of large-scale, joint economic and scientific-technical programs requiring planned coordination and the combination of considerable means for long-term projects, we can say taht "Progress" is the most vivid example in this respect.

[Correspondents] Bulgarian participation in building the gas pipeline is based on numerous facts belonging to the past. Official meetins took place. An agreement was signed. Nevertheless, the facts of the past are not as important as projects planned for the future.

Specific figures contained in the plans are not the most important thing. Their importance should be evaluated in the context of their unknown strength and impact. Let us think about it: What does it mean for a country, deprived of rich energy resources, to be able to build its future economy with absolute confidence and on a long-term basis because it relies on gas from Siberia? No matter in what manner and from whose point of view we express this -- in the sober language of the scientist, or in the language of enthusiasm, it means one and the same thing -- friendship and cooperation between the two countries are capable of correcting a shortcoming of nature and an injustice affecting our otherwise rich and beautiful country.

This is a climax already. No matter from which point of view we consider it, this cooperation has reached unprecedented heights.

CEMA BRIEFING ON 'SUCCESSFUL' AGRICULTURAL YEAR

LD032047 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1420 GMT 3 Mar 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists was organized at CEMA headquarters in Moscow.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Yu. Ulyanov, identified from screen caption] The last agricultural year was successful as a whole for all fraternal socialist countries, the Bulgarian Stau Dimov, head of the agricultural department of the CEMA Secretariat, stated. The exchange of seed varieties and planting materials, the mutural use of gene stocks for livestock breeds and cooperation in mechanization have led to the further intensification of production and an increase in CEMA countries' share of the world output of the basic food products.

[Ulyanov addresses question to Dimov] The CEMA countries lag behind Common Market countries in per capita agricultural output. A symposium is expected in Switzerland in the very near future on agriculture. What will the CEMA delegation do?

[Dimov] We, our CEMA, is not represented there as a body but as an observer. It is attending and making statements on certain matters. Within this program, we and the Western countries, primarily the European Economic Community, will be there to jointly draw up separate technical matters and matters relating to our collaboration [sentence as heard] It is difficult to say how things will develop, but first and foremost we must resolve, primarily, our problems relating to production and then come to an agreement with them. As yet they are finding it hard to move toward a mutual understanding in this respect. Where they are stronger they do not want to cooperate with us, they don't want to. [end recording]

BRIEFS

CEMA COMPUTER PROGRAMS -- Moscow March 2 TASS -- The "Interfap" system, being designed by CEMA member countries, will be able to offer consumers a big choice of programmes for solution of problems with the use of electronic computers. The system will be used for mutual exchanges, storing and duplicating programs on the basis of single organizational, legal and economic principles. Every country, selling its programs and purchasing those of other countries, will be able to save time, material and manpower resources. This will be an unprecedented bank of programs in the world. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT 2 Mar 87 LD]

PRAVDA SEES WEINBERGER AS 'CONVINCED MILITARIST'

PM051623 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 87 First Edition p 5

[A. Lyutyy "Pamphlet": "A Convinced Militarist"]

[Text] It has become a kind of rule now: As soon as prospects begin to take shape somewhere for movement toward a nuclear-free world, a world without wars and international strife, the U.S. defense secretary immediately appears on the scene. He pulls from his official document case papers containing the latest "deadly" anti-Soviet thesis and he pours forth a list of intimidatory data, masquerading as information about the USSR's military potential and our defense expenditure. The adjutants of the militarist in civilan clothes obligingly display all manner of diagrams with red and blue arrows in which the red arrows -- data about the USSR, of course -- soar at the very top end of the tables and the blues just about crawl in somewhere at the bottom. The secretary would seem to be on the point of hollering: "The Russians are coming!"

The secretary's work schedule is hectic. Having basically transferred all administrative and technical functions to his deputies, he daily travels about America and the world preaching on the theme of the "rapid growth of the Soviet threat." THe Soviets are so far ahead in the military sphere, he says, that it is going to take a titanic effort to catch them.

Last October in Anchorage Weinberger flabbergasted his audience with the following "arithmetic." The USSR has developed the kind of production capacities that will enable it to produce three times as many ballistic missiles, nearly three times as many submarines, and several times as many bombers as the United States! Earlier Weinberger stated that the Warsaw Pact has the advantage in tanks, in a ratio of 2 to 1.

On 15 January this year, on the anniversary of the USSR's presentation of its program for the elimination of nuclear weapons, Weinberger made a speech at the National Press Club in Washington. There was no room in the speech for a sober assessment of the Soviet Union's peace initiatives. Instead there was the stern warning that the USSR is on the point of deploying around 100 brand-new ICBM launchers.

In some cases you find Weinberger panicking about the "Soviet threat," in others he is extolling U.S. military strength. It was that, apparently, that lead to the Soviet-U.S. meetings in Geneva and Reykjavik. "Our emphasis on restoring our military strength and the President's wise decision to set about creating a strategic defense system," he claimed, "not only did not lead to confrontation but contributed to the holding of the two meetings between the President and General Secretary Gorbachev." Although it must be said that the U.S. defense secretary's attitude to the meetings was sharply negative from the very beginning. During the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva in 1985 there was a cunningly orchestrated "leak" of information in the United States about a letter sent by the defense secretary to the President demanding that in no circumstances should he agree to the strict observance of the SALT II treaty and the ABM Treaty. The purpose of the "leak" was obvious -- to call the U.S. delegation, including the President himself, to order, to wreck the talks, and to prevent major accords being reached at them. It is easy to guess who was behind this act of political sabotage -- the military-industrial complex.

The Pentagon leader gave a sigh of relief when last year the U.S. side wrecked the accord in Reykjavik. Brazenly -- there is no other word for it -- it blamed the Soviet Union for this. [paragraph continues]

In an interview for the French television company TF-1, Weinberger said: "I do not know whether the Russians ever had even the slightest intention of agreeing to any of the proposals they were talking about..." This pronouncement is irresponsible in itself. From a leading figure in the government of the leading Western power it sounds like a mockery of the well-known facts.

It is unnecessary to argue with such people. In fact, as far as Weinberger is concerned, the truth is merely the small change in the political game. We did not start talking about the U.S. secretary just for argument's sake. The point is that his name has again appeared on the front pages of U.S. newspapers. Again Weinberger is acting as a saboteur of efforts to eliminate the nuclear threat. According to the press, he was the initiator of the early deployment [ranneye razvertyvaniye] of certain elements of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" in space and on earth. Weinberger would like to have in operation [vvesti v stroy] by early 1990 the first space weapons systems which will be components of SDI. The intention is clear -- to give the SDI program now the kind of momentum and invest in it the kind of funds and potential which would make the venture effectively irreversible, irrespective of the wishes of any future administration. So the intention is to completely bury the ABM Treaty, destroy the opportunity which took shape in Reykjavik of reaching Soviet-U.S. accords, and, most important, take the arms race into space. Weinberger has again come to the fore to veto the cessation of the arms race.

What is he like, this 60-year-old U.S. secretary, whom I saw several times when I was a correspondent in Washington? Appearances are often deceptive, and that is obviously true in this case. He is civil and courteous and dresses in severe, dark suits. He is on the short side and looks more like a financial official than the head of the military department. At the end of the sixties he headed the financial department of the state of California. At that time our hero was an advocate of strict budgetary economy, zealously protecting his department's interests.

It must be said that he remains an advocate of economy, but with one exception. That exception is the Pentagon. Weinberger is prepared to sacrifice everything -- appropriations for schools' needs and for the development of science and art, aid programs for underprivileged families, and, finally, all the social programs on which the position of millions of American depends -- but not the Pentagon budget.

What is the cause of this behavior? Perhaps there are two. Gene Larocque, the retired rear admiral who is director of the Washington Defense Information Center, once observed: "Weinberger is one of the few cold war knights in Washington." It is well known that the secretary is an inveterate anglophile who reads English literature and studies the history of the English aristocracy. It is less well known that his ideal statesman is Winston Churchill, one of the originators of the cold war against the USSR.

The impression is that Weinberger is beginning to believe his own anti-Soviet cock-and-bull stories. The cloak of prejudice and enmity toward the USSR is too thick for him to be able to distinguish truth from lies. Nor does Weinberger want to do that.

There is a second cause of the secretary's extreme bellicosity. Like some of his colleagues in the administration, Weinberger was "recruited" from the giant Bechtel corporation, where he had been vice president and a director. This construction firm is one of the Pentagon's biggest contractors. Bechtel is constructing a variety of facilities, military included, in dozens of countries. It is perfectly natural that in sending its man to the government the firm should expect in return new, ever larger military contracts. [paragraph continues]

Indeed, Weinberger himself has a stake in them since he has invested a considerable amount of his capital in the company. The "feedback" between the government and military corporations is efficiently organized. People like Weinberger are trying hard to convince their fellow citizens that what is good for the military-industrial complex is good for America today. Even if this "good" thing places the world on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe.

MOSCOW TV: REAGAN SPEECH AROUSES 'SKEPTICISM'

LD052112 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1540 GMT 5 Mar 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] Yet again President Reagan spoke on the American television yesterday. This time he dedicated his speech to the Irangate scandal and in particular to the Tower Commission report, which was handed to him a week ago, last Thursday. This is Reagan's speech. [Video shows brief shot of Reagan's address -- no sound]

Reluctantly, the President was forced to admit certain mistakes of his administration in this matter. He said in particular that the U.S. strategy in relation to Iran aimed, in his words, at seeking approaches to this country, had slid down to an arms deal for the hostages. This was a mistake, stated Reagan. The President also claimed that allegedly many aspects of the operation regarding the supply of weapons to Iran and transfer of a part of the obtained funds to the Nicaraguan contras, were carried out by the staff of the National Security Council apparatus without his knowledge. The President said he could not remember whether he sanctioned the arms supplies before and after they had started to be carried out, and that so far it had not been possible to establish where the money for the contras had gone. At the same time the President admitted that he, as the head of the administration bears responsibility for everything. One has to give the head of the administration his due. He understands very well the rules of the political game on the U.S. scene. He knows that having made partial admission, small concessions thrown to the crowd -- to public opinion if you like -- one might get something in return and count on people's indulgence, forgiveness and absolution from the accusation of the most serious sins. Well, we shall see if this turns out to be the case this time.

In the meanwhile it is possible to concentrate attention on some striking contradictions in the President's speech. He stated, for instance, that he kept silent about Irangate, for which he was to have paid with the trust in him on the part of the Americans. But meanwhile, everyone remembers very well that Reagan made special statements on Irangate, in which the events were being outlined with no great precision, to put it mildly. The President's speech aroused suspicion and skepticism in some senators, whose interviews were broadcast by U.S television immediately after the President's statement. [video shows clips of unidentified persons]

The CBS television company noted that over the course of 4 months the President moved slowly from categorical denials toward reluctant admissions that the policy, which was on the whole correct, has been implemented incorrectly by individual people. Well, and what is the result of this? The latest public opinion poll, which was carried out last Saturday and Sunday by the Gallup Institute gave the following results: More than half -- 53 percent of Americans do not approve of Reagan's activity as the head of the administration; and one third -- 32 percent believe that he must resign.

TASS: WEBSTER 'RACIST, SUPRESSOR OF DISSENT'

LD060352 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 5 Mar 87

["Different Departments, One Policy" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 5 March (TASS) -- TASS commentator Yevgeniy Yevgenyev writes:

There was a meeting Wednesday in the Oval Office at the White House between President R. Reagan and W. Webster, who has been appointed director of the CIA in place of the ill W. Casey. According to UPI news agency, there was talk at the meeting of how "to restore confidence in the CIA", or, in other words, how to touch up the badly tarnished reputation of the country's main spy and subversion department and put it in order after the scandalous revelations of "Irangate". UPI recalls that Webster was entrusted with a similar task in 1978 when he was appointed director of the FBI. Talking to journalists, Webster expressed confidence that the experience he gained with the FBI will help him lead the CIA.

Reagan settled on Webster at a time when another of the administration's nominees, R. Gates, the deputy director of this agency, who is deeply involved in the "Iran scandal," officially announced he was withdrawing his application for the post of CIA director. The mass media and the public see Webster not only as a man totally uninvolved in "Irangate," but also as a man of virtually "crystal-clear" honesty and principle, who holds the law sacred and who expended considerable effort to elimininate the multitude of violations of the law in the FBI that were typical of the E. Hoover era.

However, this fine portait does not stand up to the facts. While still holding the post of district judge in Missouri, and then as district judge in the U.S. appeals court in the 8th Circuit, Webster became infamous for his openly racist views. According to U.S. human rights public organizations, even at that time he functioned from a standpoint of open hostility to blacks and representatives of other ethnic minorities. He openly expressed his admiration of his sinister predecessor as FBI director, E. Hoover.

During the 9 years in which Webster headed the FBI, this department considerably expanded the scale of its activities. Officially intended to deal with investigations of infringements of federal law and to guarantee the U.S. national security, under Webster the FBI was transformed even more into an organ of political investigation, combatting various progressive organizations and harshly suppressing all dissent. To attain these goals, in later years the secret police [okhranka] used the dirtiest methods ever: surveillance (including electronic), intimidation, terror, slander, provocation, imprisoning innocent people, and sometimes physical elimination by hired killers.

In recent years court cases against progressive Americans and fighters for peace, organized in accordance with false accusations fabricated by the secret police, have been particularly numerous. To date, dozens of American antiwar activists, whose only guilt is their devotion to the cause of peace, are still languishing behind bars. During this same period, FBI counterespionage activity has been increased significantly -- and this has facilitated an even greater fanning of spy mania in the United States

A campaign has even been launched against "terrorists" -- a label that Washington figures are eager to pin on all those who stand up against the militarist, interventionist course of the United States. In FBI headquarters, data are stored on at least 34 million "unreliable" Americans. There are 78 million cards with fingerprints in the same place. Recently, an additional "computer center", fitted with the most modern equipment, where information on all "disloyal" people is collected, was opened at the FBI base in Quantico [Virginia].

...The world-famous U.S. writer Ernest Hemingway once called the FBI the "American Gestapo." Now Webster is clearly preparing to transfer the "achievements" of his FBI period and his methods to the site of the country's main espionage and sabotage department, the CIA. In fact, it is a matter of combining the efforts of the FBI and the CIA in the fight against the countries of socialism, other states whose policies do not suit Washington, the national liberation movements, and all opponents of the administration's policy in the United States itself.

ZHOLKVER ON OVERALL 'SCANDALOUS' U.S. POLICIES

LD051835 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Aleksandr Zholkver Commentary]

[Text] Last night President Reagan made a statement on American television in connection with the report of the so-called Tower Commission which was investigating the Irangate scandal in the United States. Here is a commentary of the latest news. Our political observer Aleksandr Zholkver is at the microphone:

[Zholkver] The latest speech of the President was advertised in advance as the most important speech of his whole term of office. Indeed, it touched on quite important matters. No, I do not have in mind any particular examples of any kind of secret operations in the United States: From the secret deliveries of American arms to Iran to the utilization of the cash, which was earned from it, for equipping mercenary gangs which were landed in Nicaragua. So many scandalous facts on this subject have recently accumulated that neither Tower Commission nor the President himself could ignore them. What seems to me far more remarkable, is that all this is taking place precisely at the time when U.S. democracy is being praised in various in the United States itself and in the Voice of America programs aimed abroad. This is particularly the case because the bicentenary of the U.S. Constitution is being celebrated this year.

So it becomes evident, that while U.S. radio and television are eulogizing the honesty and nobleness of the fathers of U.S. democracy, its constitutional norms have been trampled upon in the crudest manner. The White House was finding was to bypass Congress in its actions; the President's officials were impudently lying to senators and were violating the decisions that had been adopted by them -- the latter, in part, prohibited any assistance to those very contras.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is generally a state within a state. It has its own so-called black budget which is not accountable to Congress and which is used for frankly terrorist actions: From the attempts to assassinate the president of Nicaragua to the bombing attacks on the residence of the Libyan leader.

Now THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE gloomily states: One gets the impression that having tired of democracy the President turned his National Security Council into a secret government which was organizing secret operations. Let us leave the maxims about being tired of democracy to the conscience of their authors. I will only recall that one of Washington's major operations -- an unannounced war against Nicaragua -- has up to now, been carrying the official code title "Democracy." However, is it possible, generally, to talk about all this in the past tense? Has anything changed after the Irangate scandal, after it was investigated by the Tower Commission, and even after the President's speech last night? Does the CIA intend to stop its unseemly operations after the replacement of its directors?

Unfortunately, somehow it is not noticeable that after the public penitence of the President, the announced war of the United States against Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Libya, Lebanon, Angola and Mozambique have stopped. Obviously the special feature of the much lauded American democracy consists precisely in that fact that it gives an opportunity to confess one's sins without changing anything in the very essence of this fallacious policy.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA ON SHULTZ TALKS WITH PRC LEADERS

PM041619 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS dispatch: "Talks in Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing, 3 Mar -- The Chinese press reports today that talks and meetings have been held here between PRC leaders and U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz, who is in China on an official visit.

President Li Xiannian of the PRC said during his meeting that Sino-American relations have developed relatively steadily in recent years. However, the vital question of Taiwan, which occupies an important place in Sino-American relations, "has not been fully resolved." Dwelling on the present situation in China, the PRC president noted that his country "is implementing a reform, conducting a policy of expanding ties with the outside world, and stepping up economic activity while traveling the road of building socialism with Chinese characteristics."

During the talks between PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and G. Shultz, the sides exchanged views on international problems of mutual interest and on questions of bilateral relations. The Chinese minister emphasized the immutability of China's domestic and foreign policy and noted that the PRC "will firmly conduct an independent foreign policy aimed at peace."

Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and premier of the PRC State Council, said during a reception for the U.S. secretary of state that without the Communist Party's leadership and without socialism there could be no stable political situation in China, no reforms, and no open policy in respect of the outside world. The Chinese leader also noted that the "present struggle against bourgeois liberalization is geared to the implementation of the political line and principles which China has followed over the past 8 years and which have proved their effectiveness." Characterizing Sino-American relations, he said that relations between the two countries developed successfully when both countries strictly followed the principles enshrined in the joint Sino-America communique. At the same time "difficulties and even obstacles" were encountered in the course of the development of these relations.

According to XINHUA, Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission, received G. Shultz today.

It is also reported tht a meeting was held between the U.S. secretary of state and Zhang Aiping, PRC minister of national defense, in the course of which the sides exchanged views on questions relating to ties between the two countries' defense departments.

'RENMIN RIBAO' REPORT ON GORBACHEV SPEECH VIEWED

OW201349 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Fedorov commentary]

[Text] The speech by General Secretary Gorbachev of the CPSU Central Committee at an international forum in Moscow on 16 February has aroused the keen attention of public opinion in various Asian countries.

The people of Asian countries have shown particular interest in the section of the speech dealing with ways to solve regional conflicts. Dear listeners, you may have already read excerpts of the Soviet leader's speech published in RENMIN RIBAO on 17 February. In the speech, the Soviet Union indicates its intention to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan as quickly as possible. However, in order to solve this regional problem, it also expresses the hope that the United States and Afghanistan's other neighbors will demonstrate the same attitude. In this connection, our station observer Fedorov writes the following commentary:

Prompt efforts are needed to mediate the situation surrounding Afghanistan as well as in other regions of Asia, such as Indochina, Hindustan, and the Persian Gulf where the Iran-Iraq war is still going on. Echoing this view, RENMIN RIBAO has correctly emphasized the spirit of Comrade Gorbachev's speech; that is, efforts by one side alone cannot solve a regional conflict. In order the solve the Afghanistan problem, peace efforts are needed not only from the Soviet Union, but also from the United States and Afghanistan's other neighbors, namely Pakistan, Iran, and China, who have played a major role in the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

In this matter, we share identical views regarding collective and multilateral efforts to solve a regional conflict. However, this is far from enough. It is an obvious fact that collective efforts are constructive and conducive to strengthening regional and universal security. Only with this view in mind is it possible to find a perfect solution in keeping with the objective interests of all countries.

However, this is still not enough. As emphatically pointed out by the Soviet leader, what is important is the serious consideration given to the right of the people of various countries to choose their future road without interference from other countries. Please think about this: Could the use of force to impose an unpopular system on the Afghan people at the expense of their interests solve the problem in a satisfactory way? No, of course not. The use of force and subservience to the wishful thinking of a certain country or certain leaders can never solve a problem. People should respect the rights of other countries as they respect the rights of their own.

Herein lies the key to coexistence among various countries of the contemporary world. It is necessary to respect the interests of other countries, regardless of whether their interests are identical with those of one's own country. It is also necessary to strive for mutual respect for the interests of other countries and for a reliable equilibrium of the mutual interests of all countries. This would be difficult to attain, but must be attained for the sake of peace and future generations. The Soviet Union intends to work together with other countries in exploring ways to attain this goal.

U.S. DEMANDS FOR JAPANESE ARMS BUILDUP VIEWED

OW010428 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In his meeting with Komeito Chairman Yano, who is visiting the United States, U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger reiterated the demand of for an unlimited increase in military expenditures by Japan. The same demand was made by Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, at his meeting with Chairman Yano. Senator Nunn stated that Japan should double its defense spending. This is not the first time the United States has made such a demand on Japan.

As was pointed out by the weekly U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT not long ago, many politicians in the United States hold that with its great economic power and trade surplus, Japan should make corresponding efforts to increase its military strength by a large margin. They hold this view because of the intensified military cooperation between the two countries. However, there is still another reason, which is more important. Washington is well aware, through experience, that increased military spending will eventually weaken its economic position. Because of its huge trade deficits with Japan and because it lags behind in various economic fields, the United States has attempted to weaken its rival's position. In this connection, the United States has persisted in involving Japan in an arms race that will impose a severe burden on the country. And the Washington authorities hold that the decisive factor in carrying out this plot is to have Japan increase its military spending by a large margin.

As early as 5 years ago, the Heritage Foundation, which has close connections with the Reagan administration, advised the Japanese Government to remove its 1-percent-of-GNP ceiling on defense spending. The United States has succeeded in obtaining the Japanese authorities' understanding of its wishes, and late last year the Japanese Government decided on removing this ceiling on defense spending. The MAINICHI SHIMBUN states that as a result of this decision, it has become easier for the United States to demand Japan's strengthening of its war potential.

And it is no accident that U.S. Government officials and congressional leaders have been calling on Japan to increase its military spending. They are demanding that Japan increase defense spending by a large margin, by double, in fact. What is noteworthy is that this demand has been made at a time when the protest against the Japanese Government's shortsighted decision on removing the ceiling on defense spending has been spreading.

Japan's General Council of Trade Unions, which has a membership of over 4 million workers, has demanded that the government reduce defense spending and withdraw plans for sales taxes. The opposition parties have taken up the same line. Even within the LDP, differing opinions exist on this issue. Both within and outside the Diet, sharp debates have been carried on concerning the draft budgets in which the ceiling on defense spending has been removed for the first time.

Washington's demand under such circumstances cannot but be taken as an attempt to support those who advocate the policy of suppressing public opinion in Japan and removing the obstacles to Japanese rearmament.

However, reality attests to the fact that a military buildup is a road filled with extreme danger. If Japan should take this road, there would be no guarantee of its national security but, on the contrary, serious damage to its economy would result. This point should never be forgotten when a militarist call is heard from the United States.

COMMENTARY VIEWS ROWNY TALKS WITH JAPAN ON SDI

OW020155 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] The debate on the early deployment of the SDI system is now at its height in Washington. In the midst of this debate, the U.S. Government has ventured on persuading the governments of its allies who had expressed disapproval. Mr Nitze, an associate of Mr Rowny, and Perle, assistant secretary of defense, have set out for European countries. The purpose of their visits is to hold consultations with U.S. allies on a broad interpretation of the 1972 USSR-U.S. ABM Treaty. And Adviser Rowny has visited Japan for the same purpose. A broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty actually means the abolition of this important treaty. West Germany has indicated its strong stand on this issue to the U.S. side. It is reported that a not too heated debate took place in Japan. The Japanese Foreign Ministry once again stated its concerns over the future of the ABM Treaty. Meanwhile, Mr Rowny attempted to play a trick by saying that the U.S. Government had not reached its final decision.

Nevertheless, the news from the United States cannot make one feel at ease. Komeito Chairman Yano who has just returned from his visit to the United States indicates that he has the impression that Washington has already made its decision on the broad interpretation. Many mass media agencies in the United States have made the same judgment. The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER reported in its 24 February issue that it seems certain that the president is trying to reduce this important treaty with the USSR into mere form. Then it can be said that in sending its representatives to Japan and the West European countries, the United States has merely tried to fulfill its obligations for holding prior consultations with its allies just for the sake of formality.

Meanwhile, the Japanese mass media has already reported that if the U.S. Government should decide on giving the ABM Treaty a broad interpretation, the Japanese Foreign Ministry intends to follow the decision. It follows that for Japan, the recent consultation was merely perfunctory. And the consultation can be said to be merely a tranquilizer used for temporary relief from the serious issue of what relations should exist between Japan and the United States. In other words, the United States will then be able to say: You see, we did have consultations with Japan. Judging from past experience, however, such consultations will impose no obligations on high-ranking officials of the United States. And there is no sign that the current case will be an exception. It will not be difficult to imagine that some day in the early 1990's, a representative will come from the United States to inform Japan, courteously and smilingly, that the first contingent of space arms developed with Japan's cooperation has already been deployed in orbit.

If the hawks in the United States should ever succeed in abolishing the USSR-U.S. ABM. Treaty as they once did with the SALT II Treaty, nothing would be more dangerous than their success. In that case, the final brake on the nuclear arms race will be removed and the arms race will be expanded into outer space. This is the implication of Mr Rowny's visit to Japan.

NAKASONE, GOTODA CITED MISSILE REDUCTION PLAN

LD020946 Moscow TASS in English 0807 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo March 2 TASS -- The Japanese Government has assessed Mikhail Gorbachev's recent statement as a step towards nuclear disarmament and peace around the world, Masaharu Gotoda, general secretary of the cabinet of ministers, said today.

He told Japanese newsmen that the reduction of medium-range missiles in Asia was a positive element in the Soviet proposals.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone today once again stressed the great importance of the initiative, telling journalists that these proposals would facilitate dialogue. The Soviet stance was positive, Nakasone said.

'PROVOCATIVE' 'TEAM SPIRIT-87' GAMES SCORED

PM051327 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Feb 87 First Edition p 3

[A. Golts "Observer's Opinion": "Attack of Militarist Hysteria"]

[Text] (So Yen-chzhun), a sergeant in the South Korean Marines, is not participating in the latest U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit-87" maneuvers that started 19 February. Without waiting for the militarist rehearsals to start, he decided to fight on his own. Armed with a submachinegun and hand grenades, the sergeant took two dozen people hostage and staged a 2-hour firefight with an entire subdivision of assault troops. Several dozen entirely innocent people were killed or wounded.

This insanity, local newspapers believe, is the result of the marines' "special training." "These professional killers," the newspaper CHOSON ILBO noted, "are taught to spare no one."

This case is, of course, worth noting. And it is not only sergeants who have acute attacks of militarist hysteria. These attacks -- preplanned, it is true -- also affect Pentagon generals. But they are aimed at entire countries and concern the fates of not dozens but millions of people. And are not the "Team Spirit" maneuvers themselves, which will last until May, a manifestation of this hysteria? They are the largest of all the war games the United States annually stages on the Asian Continent. They involve over 200,000 servicemen. Apart from Seoul army formations and U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, Rapid Deployment Force units from Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, and California are brought in to take part in the maneuvers. A carrier group from the U.S. 7th Fleet has set course for the Korean coast. This concentration of armed forces in a region where the tension never diminishes is in itself a blatant provocation.

The "Team Spirit" scenarios are even more provocative. They include thousands-strong landings of naval and airborne assault troops, tank offensives, and the seizure of enemy territory. This is essentially a large-scale rehearsal for intervention in Korea. The implementation of the aggression has a clearly expressed nuclear aspect. And it is not merely a question of the simulated use of nuclear weapons during the maneuvers.

"Team Spirit-87" will be held at a time when U.S. and South Korean generals are preparing to site Lance operational-tactical missiles and new-generation chemical weapons -- binary munitions -- on the peninsula. And this is in addition to the 1,000 nuclear shells, landmines, and missile warheads already in place there. The "Team Spirit" scenarios indicate the insane schemes of those who continue to gamble on these nuclear weapons and count on intimidating the peoples with them.

The militarist rehearsals are both militarily and politically provocative. For by holding them Washington and Seoul are demonstrating their utter contempt for the entire Korean people's desire to live in peace and their disdain for the DPRK's calls to refrain from actions which exacerbate the situation and hamper the North-South negotiating process.

As we can see, the Pentagon and South Korean military department strategists, whose mental health is supposedly good, are far more dangerous than the crazed marine.

DRA FOREIGN MINISTER WAKIL LEAVES MOSCOW

PM031207 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] A. Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA foreign minister, left Moscow 23 February for Geneva to take part in the Afghan-Pakistani talks on a political settlement of the Afghanistan situation.

PAKISTAN'S YAQUB KHAN PAYS 'SHORT WORKING VISIT'

Arrives 22 Feb

PM231640 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 87 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Arrival in Moscow"]

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister S. Yaqub Khan arrived in Moscow 22 February for a short working visit.

He was met at the airport by USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Yu.M. Vorontsov and other officials.

Meets With Shevardnadze

LD231638 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, today had a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan who is in Moscow en route to Geneva for Afghan-Pakistani talks on a political settlement of the situation regarding Afghanistan.

The Soviet side expressed full support for Democratic Afghanistan's policy of seeking an early political settlement and pointed out that the Soviet Union has been making a constructive contribution to this important cause with its practical steps.

It also reaffirmed that a political settlement around Afghanistan on the basis of termination, and guaranteed non-resumption, of outside interference would correspondingly expedite the return from Afghanistan of the limited contingent of Soviet troops staying there at the request of its government.

The fact that the resolution of the Afghan problem requires reciprocity on the part of Pakistan was called to the attention of the Pakistani foreign minister.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that the Afghan leadership's policy of national reconciliation is a practical manifestation of the constructive approach taken by the Government of Afghanistan to the problem of normalizing the situation in and around that country.

Hope was expressed that at the forthcoming talks in Geneva the Pakistani delegation will take a stand that will help work out mutually acceptable solutions. [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 24 February in its Second Edition on page 4 carries a TASS report on the meeting entitled "In the Interests of a Settlement" which adds: "On the same day E.A. Sheverdnadze arranged a dinner in S. Yaqub Khan's honor."]

Departs 24 Feb

PM261315 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, who had been here on a brief business visit, left Moscow 24 February. He was seen off at the airport by Yu. M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and other officials.

The send off party included A.Kh. Vezirov, USSR ambassador to Pakistan, and S.M. Amin, Pakistani ambassador to the USSR.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON DRA, YAQUB KHAN

LD261205 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS -- The Soviet Union is doing everything possible for an early settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. He commented on the Afghan-Pakistani talks that had resumed in Geneva on Wednesday. Intensive preparations had preceded that round of the talks and the aim was to create a felicitous atmosphere for their successful completion.

Speaking of the results of an exchange of views with the minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, Yaqub Khan, the spokesman said that the Pakistani side also had not negated the need of attaining an early settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan.

TASS DENIES PLANS TO BOMB PAKISTANI REACTOR

LD282221 Moscow TASS in English 2149 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS -- Reports with reference to the U.S. Carnegie Foundation appearing in the Asian press to the effect that the Soviet Union is allegedly planning to bomb a Pakistani nuclear reactor in Kahut off the territory of Afghanistan are a gross invention which has nothing to do with reality.

A spokesman of the Soviet NOVOSTI press agency was informed in competent circles that these provocative reports were aimed at poisoning the atmosphere in the Soviet-Pakistani relations and at disrupting the Geneva talks on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

During the past three months a series of meetings between Soviet and Pakistani representatives were held in Moscow and Islamabad. In the course of the talks between Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, held early in February, this year, they expressed interest in the development of Soviet-Pakistani ties in the political, technical, economic, trade and other spheres.

It was pointed out that there existed opportunities for the consolidation of good neighbourly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation with due account for the interests of peoples of the Soviet Union and Pakistan. The Pakistani leadership positively assessed the steps taken by the governments of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan with a view to resolving the Afghan problem. A real possibility emerged of a successful completion of the Geneva talks between Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

At the same time, the USSR has repeatedly expressed its concern over the military aspects of the Pakistani nuclear program, hoping to prevent, the arms race involving the death-carrying nuclear armaments in southern Asia. However, the USSR has always favoured and continues to favour a political settlement of all the problems, including the problem of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is worth recalling that the USSR emphatically denounced the Israeli air raid of a nuclear rsearch centre in Iraq in 1981.

After the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant the Soviet Union put forward a whole package of measures aimed at ensuring the safe functioning of peaceful nuclear power installations.

The process of normalization of relations between Pakistan and India, between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the strengthening of friendly ties between the USSR and India after the visit of the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in November, 1986 is obviously a matter of concern for those who would like to bofit from tension in that part of the world. The source of the 'information', specifically the Carnegie Foundation, shows who is the one that is not interested in the consolidation of peace in south-west Asia.

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM 'SPARKS SCANDAL'

LD051738 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo March 5 TASS -- A political scandal sparked off by a recent publication in the British newspaper "OBSERVER" and the Indian press of an interview by 'Abd al-Qader Khan, chairman of the Pakistani Atomic Energy Commission, is spreading in Pakistan. He admitted, in fact, that Pakistan had an atomic bomb.

The KYODO TSUSHIN agency reports from Islamabad that Mushahid Hussain Sayed, editor of one of the leading Pakistani newspapers "MUSLIM", was forced to resign for arranging Khan's interview with India journalist Kuldip Nayaru. The agency points out that several Pakistani newspapers carried a statement by M. Hussain that the interview had been held with a preliminary consent of A.Q. Khan who is called "father of Pakistani A-Bomb".

Though after the publication of his interview A.Q. Khan refuted his statement about the Pakistani nuclear potential, political analysts pay attention to the fact that back in 1984 he had blurted out the then capacity of Pakistan for developing an atomic bomb.

New Delhi March 5 TASS -- The U.S. Administration does not take any measures to contain Pakistan's attempts to get an access to nuclear weapons, contrary to numerous evidence of Islamabad's acquisition of components to produce a nuclear detonation device, said Leonard Spector, an executive of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in his interview with the PTI agency.

The White House ignores warnings that Pakistan has developed or is close to developing an atomic bomb, points out the influential newspaper "TIMES OF INDIA". This is corroborated by the Reagan administration's intention to get Congress to extend the operation of a bill under which Pakistan is not subject to the action of the so-called Symington amendment. The amendment forbids allocation of U.S. aid to countries developing their own nuclear weapons. The U.S. President, the newspaper writes, needs to get Congress's support to launch this year a new programme of American military and economic aid to Pakistan to the tune of over four billion dollars.

SHEVARDNADZE MAKES TOUR STOPOVER IN INDONESIA

Arrival News Conference

BK051525 Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian 1400 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his wife arrived at 1440 West Indonesian Time [0740 GMT] this afternoon at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusumah Airport aboard an Aeroflot plane. They were welcomed by Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja and his wife, the Soviet ambassador to Indonesia, high-ranking officials of the Foreign Affairs Department, and Soviet community in Jakarta. The Soviet foreign minister is now on an Asia-Pacific tour -- with Thailand as the first leg of his journey -- aimed at discussing the Cambodian problem. He has already visited Australia for talks on nuclear disarmament in the Pacific region. Today he began his visit to Indonesia. During his visit to this country, in addition to talks on bilateral ties, he will discuss world peace, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Russian interpreter speaking in Indonesian] We would like to greet all Indonesian journalists, who are the representatives of the great Indonesian people. I believe we will be discussing what the two great countries and peoples can do to safeguard peace, stop the arms race, and prevent humanity from perishing in nuclear [word indistinct]. Therefore, anything can be done to guarantee peace.

[Shevardnadze speaking in Russian followed by interpreter in Indonesian] Of course, we want to look into our bilateral relationships in a detailed and concrete way, namely in the economic, trade, political, scientific, and technological fields. We feel that there are good prospects in these areas. Relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Indonesia have an interesting and useful history. There are, of course, difficult moments throughout these relations, but we believe that the history of our relations is not [words indistinct]. I believe we will uphold this principle and make continued progress. [end recording]

Discussions With Mokhtar

LD060756 Moscow TASS in English 0746 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Jakarta March 6 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., who arrived in Indonesia for an official visit had a meeting with Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, minister of foreign affairs of Indonesia, today. The two ministers discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the region and international affairs.

Mokhtar on Nuclear Policies

BK060715 Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia 1300 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Report on remarks made by Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja to unidentified station correspondent -- date not given]

[Text] During a conversation with a Radio Moscow correspondent, Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said that Indonesia, like other countries, appreciates the foreign policy initiatives made by the Soviet Union following the appointment of Mikhail Gorbachev as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The foreign minister of the Republic of Indonesia expressed the hope that the proposals contained in Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok last July will receive a positive response from the countries concerned, including the United States.

The foreign minister of the Republic of Indonesia reiterated that Indonesia's stand on the nuclear arms race is absolutely clear. The cessation of this race must be our main common target. The reduction of the nuclear arms buildup will play a role in the eventual total elimination of nuclear weapons as a means of mass destruction. Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja stressed that Indonesia welcomes the establishment of nuclear-free zones as a means to control the nuclear arms race, adding, however, that this is only a partial step. He added: For us, genuine peace is more dimensional than merely an absence of wars. Peace means respect for each other, an absence of ambitions and intention to impose views on another country, cooperation, and common efforts to overcome common issues. Nations should have the right to live in accordance with their own wishes.

Gerasimov Moscow Briefing

LD051600 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow 5 Mar (TASS) -- The USSR regards as important relations with Indonesia an influential state of the Asian-Pacific Ocean region, and active member of the Nonaligned Movement, said Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists held today. The official visit of Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR foreign minister, who arrived in Jakarta today, will last till 8 March.

It is remembered in the USSR, said Gennadiy Gerasimov, that the Bandung principles were born precisely on the soil of Indonesia. He stressed that the national interests of the USSR and Indonesia have never clashed. As far as a number of international problems is concerned, the positions of both countries are close and even identical.

In the course of his visit Eduard Shevardnadze will meet Indonesian president and other officials. The main directions of the further development of bilateral cooperation, international and regional problems, including the problems of Asian-Pacific Ocean region, in conjunction with the proposals, made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Vladivostok last year, and also during his visit to India, will be examined.

CPCZ DELEGATION VISITS, MEETS WITH RAZUMOVSKIY

PM271525 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 87 First Edition p 4

[Tass report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for CPSU-CPCZ interparty ties, a CPCZ delegation headed by M. Beno, secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, was in the Soviet Union 22-24 February.

The delegation was received by G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. There was a frank, friendly conversation during which the Czechoslovak friends were informed of the results of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and the main apsects of organizational party work in the context of the restructuring process and the acceleration of socioeconomic development.

The delegation had a conversation in Moscow's Volgogradskiy Party Raykom.

CSSR Ambassador to the USSR M. Zavadil took part in the conversations.

PPR'S MALINOWSKI SEES TOLKUNOV ON STOPOVER

LD260051 Warsaw PAP in English 2047 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow, Feb 25 -- On his way to India, Speaker of the Sejm (Polish parliament) Roman Malinowski met in Moscow today with Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Lev Tolkunov.

During the meeting, they informed each other of the current main directions of activities of the Polish Sejm and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

They also discussed some aspects of parliamentary cooperation in bilateral relations and exchanged views on international topics.

SHCHERBITSKIY RECEIVES BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR

AU040751 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, received in Kiev Georgi Pankov, Bulgarian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union. During their conversation, it was pointed out that at present 11 Bulgarian okrugs are maintaining direct links in the most varied fields with Ukranian oblasts, while Ukranian associations and plants are taking part in the construction and renewal of production capacities in our petrochemical industry, ferrous metallurgy, and power industry. Several joint scientific-production trusts, engineering centers, and scientific laboratories are being set up. Direct links are expanding between Bulgarian and Ukrainian enterprises.

The introduction of new, more efficient forms of integration between Bulgaria and the Ukraine was the central topic in Ambassador Georgi Pankov's talks with Aleksandr Lyashko, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR, and Vladimir Kravets, Ukranian minister of foreign affairs.

RAZUMOVSKIY RECEIVES KOSTEV-LED BCP DELEGATION

LD202254 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty links between the CPSU and the BCP, a delegation of party workers from the BCP led by Comrade Kostev was in our country 16-20 February. They were acquainted with the experience of the CPSU's work with personnel in the light of the decisions of the January plenum of the party Central Committee.

The delegation was received by Comrade Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He had a warm, friendly conversation with them.

GDR CELEBRATES BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS WEEK

PM271355 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS dispatch: "Week of Brotherhood in Arms"]

[Text] Berlin, 21 Feb -- The traditional week of brotherhood in arms between servicemen of the Armed Forces of the GDR and the Soviet Union opened today with a ceremonial rally in the administrative center of Suhl Bezirk.

Addressing the rally, Army General H. Kessler, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR minister of national defense, expressed confidence that the week of brotherhood in arms will again be a vivid manifestation of the constantly strengthening fraternal alliance between the GDR National People's Army, the USSR Armed Forces, and the armies of the other socialist community countries.

Army General V.A. Belikov, commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, emphasized in his speech that servicemen of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, constantly are strengthening their combat readiness and piously fulfilling their international duty.

KULIKOV, OTHERS AT GDR ARMY DAY RECEPTION

PM041647 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Feb 87 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "On the Anniversary"]

[Text] Major General (G.) Oldenburg, military, naval, and air attache at the GDR Embassy in the USSR, held a reception 26 February to mark the 31st anniversary of the GDR National People's Army.

The reception was attended by Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces; Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of the Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister; Marshal of Engineering Troops N.F. Shestopalov, USSR deputy defense minister for construction and billeting of troops; Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; and Soviet Armed Forces generals, admirals, and officers.

Military, naval, and air attaches from the embassies of a number of foreign states in the Soviet Union were among the guests.

GDR Ambassador to the USSR G. Koenig was also present.

ZAYKIN CONGRATULATES BERLIN ON 750TH ANNIVERSARY

LD032002 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1229 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Moscow, 3 Mar (ADN) -- "On the occasion of the 750th anniversary of Berlin, I convey to all its inhabitants the warm greetings and congratulations of the deputies of the Moscow Soviet and the inhabitants of the heroic city of Moscow," and Valeriy Zaykin, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet, in an ADN interview.

For many centuries, the history of Berlin was characterized by clashes between the forces of war and peace. For its jubilee, the city bore with pride the sobriquet "City of Peace," conferred by the World Peace Council on the capital of the GDR. [passage omitted]

"The Soviet people truly rejoice in the achievements of the GDR," the chairman of the city soviet said. In recent decades, Berlin blossomed and became very beautiful. "It has become one of the most beautiful cities in the world and a very important center of culture and industry in the GDR. The people of the GDR and the inhabitants of the capital have scored noteworthy successes in the building of a new life. The program of social development for Berlin and the increase in its inhabitants' welfare is being carried out successfully." The chairman thanked the city government of the capital for the invitation to the jubilee celebrations, which he accepted with satisfaction.

RESTRUCTURING EFFECT SEEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

AU051030 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 27 Feb 87 p 2

[RATAU report: "A Glorious Anniversary"]

[Text] On 25 February, a meeting was held in Kiev to commemorate the 39th anniversary of the victory won by the Czechoslovak working people over the reaction.

M.O. Pilnikov, board deputy chairman of the Ukrainian branch of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Society and chairman of the Ukrainian Agricultural Construction Association, delivered a report. He pointed out that the victory won by the Czechoslovak working people under the leadership of the Communist Party in February 1948 had opened a new socialist era in the country's history.

In the report and speeches, it was emphasized that the achievements of the fraternal Czechoslovak people in the years of building socialism had convincingly confirmed the correctness of the line trace by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in February 1948.

The meeting was addressed by M. Kovac, CSSR consul general in Kiev. Our toiling people's victory over the reaction and the successes scored in socialist construction in Czechoslovakia are convincing evidence of the international validity and viability of the teaching of Marxism-Leninism, he said. [paragraph continues]

Mutual assistance, cooperation, and alliance with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community guarantee our future and defend our peoples against the threats of imperialism.

Everything that is now taking place in the Soviet Union which successfully implements the tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress, the consul general emphasized, has a strong and stimulating effect in Czechoslovakia. Deserving attention is the innovative attitude toward the problems of restructuring Soviet society's life, of further strengthening the party's leading role, and of promoting socialist democracy.

POLISH SEJM DELEGATION VISITING U.S. INTERVIEWED

LD052118 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2015 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Washington, 5 Mar (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

A delegation of the Polish Sejm, led by Jozef Czyrek, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Polish People's Republic's Sejm, has arrived in the American capital at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress.

The invitation that reached us to pay a visit to the United States, Comrade Czyrek said in a conversation with a TASS correspondent, underlines the fact that the policy of pressure and discrimination with regard to the Polish People's Republic, which was conducted by the Washington administration and which attempts to isolate Poland in its relations with Western countries, has not produced the desired results. On this level, common sense and understanding of the fact that the development of relations between the Polish People's Republic and the United States corresponds to the interests of both countries have clearly prevailed in the American capital. For her part, Poland is executing firmly the policy worked out by the socialist community aimed at easing international tension and curbing the arms race. The peaceful initiatives submitted by the Soviet Union and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, personally, are a powerful accelerator for this policy. Poland resolutely supports these initiatives. Poland also, together with the other countries of the socialist community, stands up for mutually beneficial development of political, business and cultural relations, based on equal rights, with all countries of the world, including the United States. Such a policy and such a course fully correspond to Poland's national interests. As far as economic relations between the Polish People's Republic and the United States are concerned, J. Czyrek stressed, the administration, having lifted the discriminatory restrictions on such relations that were introduced in the past, admitted by so doing that the United States also is interested in developing these relations with the Polish People's Republic. Poland, naturally, needs trading partners, but only those who recognize the principle of mutual benefit and equal rights and who are consistent and reliable partners. An example of such a partner, on whom Poland can always rely, is the Soviet Union.

In Washington and a number of other cities in the United States, the Polish parlimentarians will have meetings with members of Congress, administration leaders, prominent public, cultural and religious figures and representatives of industrial and financial circles.

SFRY, PZPR, BULGARIA REACT TO GORBACHEV PROPOSAL

Yugoslavia: 'Timely,' 'Correct'

LD051909 Moscow TASS in English 1816 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Belgrade March 5 TASS -- The proposal of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe is a timely and correct move, Aleksandr Stanic, and official spokesmen for the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, said at a press conference here.

Answering a question from TASS correspondent Anatoliy Bocharov, he said that the conclusion of a separate agreement on this problem would be a major contribution to the relaxation of tension, the improvement of the international situation and the strengthening of security in Europe and all over the world. It would mark a turning point towards the adoption of other agreements on the limitation of strategic armaments, the elimination of all the other weapons of mass annihilation and the prevention of the militarisation of space. Yugoslavia believes that the Soviet Union and the United States will show goodwill and use the opportunity to conclude an accord proposed by the Soviet Union. It would be a good response to the appeal of the 8th conference of the heads of state and government of nonaligned countries in Harare to the leaders of the two great powers to make efforts to achieve disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, Aleksandr Stanic said.

PZPR Approval

LD051152 Moscow TASS in English 1100 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Warsaw March 5 TASS -- The Politburo of the Polish United Workers' Party has welcomed Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for concluding an agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe, says a report on the Politburo's meeting, out today:

The latest Soviet peace initiative fully corresponded with Poland's foreign policy activity toward defusing international tension.

The Polish communists approve of the USSR's large-scale plans to limit and cut armaments with a view to reducing as low as possible the level of the rough balance of forces in Europe.

Praise From Zhivkov

LD042135 Moscow TASS in English 1921 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Sofia March 4 TASS -- The latest Soviet peace initiative spelled out in the statement by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev is part and parcel of the history-making programme of the USSR and its allies for the creation of a comprehensive international security system. This was stressed by Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of State, in answer to the request of the editorial board of the newspaper RABOTNICHESKO DELO to comment on the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on the elimintion of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

There is no doubt that in advancing the fresh noble initiative, the Soviet Union was guided by the wish to revive the spirit of Reykjavik, to give a fresh powerful impetus to the Soviet-American talks on curbing the weapons race, ultimate and irrevocable elimination of mass destruction weapons in the name of the loftiest and most humane aim -- saving civilisation and life on Earth. The people and government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria ardently welcome and support the proposal put forward by general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee as fresh proof of the sincerity, far-sightedness and dynamism of Soviet foreign policy, as an example of new political thinking and a new approach, Todor Zhivkov emphasized.

BRIEFS

CHEMICAL WORKS IN POLAND -- In Katowice, a leading center of Polish metallurgy, a ceremony to launch the first battery of a new coke and chemical works has taken place. The coke and chemical works in Katowice is one of the three major facilities for Polish metallurgy being erected with USSR participation. The coke and chemical works is being built with the help of Soviet experts and according to a new Soviet method for the so-called dry quenching of coke. Apart from the USSR, there are no enterprises in the socialist countries working with that technology. One of the chief merits of the method is minimum pollution. With the entire works finally in operation, it will be putting out about 3 million metric tons of coke a year, thus fully meeting the demands of the Polish economy. The operation of this enterprise opens a qualitatively new stage in the development of Polish metallurgy. A Soviet delegation headed by Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, took part in the ceremony. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 5 Mar 87 LD]

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIAN VISIT

Dumas Assesses Visit

LD232013 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS -- The chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the National Assembly of France, Roland Dumas, who is leading a delegation of French MP's on a trip to the USSR, told a news conference here today that "during our visit to the Soviet Union we have discovered a common desire by France and the USSR not only just to maintain the good relations existing between them but also to strengthen and improve them even further."

The French parliamentarians are staying in this country at the invitation of the Foreign Relations Commissions of both houses of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the USSR.

Dumas described the Franco-Soviet political relationship as "good" but added that the two countries had not yet reached a sufficiently high level in their economic relations.

"During our meetings with Soviet leaders and MP's," he said, "we have been able to make a deeper analysis of present-day international problems and discuss the further development of Franco-Soviet relations."

Dumas observed that contacts between French and Soviet parliamentarians were "exceptionally useful" and supplemented well bilateral contacts at governmental and diplomatic levels.

"We are very interested in the renewal process under way in the USSR. We knew about the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and about the political course proclaimed by the 27th congress of the CPSU last year from the press even before coming here. But it has been especially interesting for us to hear about these changes directly from Soviet leaders and see what is happening with our own eyes," the leader of the French delegation said.

"Our visit to the USSR has been most fruitful. The French parliamentarians have been received very well and the talks have been frank," he concluded.

Besides Moscow, the French MP's also visited Leningrad and Georgia.

IZVESTIYA on Visit, Ties

PM271103 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Text] A delegation from the USSR Supreme Soviet Chambers' Foreign Affairs Commissions headed by A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, met in Moscow 20 February with a French National Assembly Foreign Affairs Commission delegation headed by its Chairman R. Dumas.

The Soviet delegation included V.V. Zagladin, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union Foreign Affairs Commission, and Deputies S.F. Akhromeyev, G.A.Zhukov, V.V. Karpov, L.I. Popov, and S.V. Chervonenko, commission members.

The French delegation included L. Mermaz, chairman of the Franco-Soviet Friendship Group in the National Assembly, and Deputies A. Bellon, G. Bordu, J.-M. Demange, C.-G. Marcus, and C. Herman, delegation members.

Y. Pagniez, French ambassador to the USSR, also took part in the meeting.

During the talks, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, A.F. Dobrynin briefed the French delegation on the political course of the 27th CPSU Congress aimed at accelerating socioeconomic development and renewing all spheres of social life.

The French side showed great interest in the restructuring process in the USSR. R. Dumas noted that France is following with profound attention the transformations taking place in the Soviet Union and wishes them success.

The Soviet side provided detailed explanations of the concept put forward by the Soviet Union of a nuclear-free world, a concept which embodies the philosophy of new political thinking. In this regard, the French delegation's attention was drawn to the principled assessments and conclusions contained in the speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the international forum "For a Nuclear-free World, for the Survival of Humanity."

Both sides expressed concern at the continuing arms race and the persisting international tension. The sides stated that East-West relations are currently at an important stage that has opened up as a result of major international events, specifically the Soviet-U.S. summit in Reykjavik.

Both sides are convinced that under present conditions it is necessary to step up efforts aimed at strengthening confidence and mutual understanding regarding the fundamental problems of security and international development. The French parliamentary representatives noted that their country wants a world without weapons -- nuclear weapons included -- and one without wars. They advocated strengthening existing machinery for restraining the arms race, first and foremost the ABM Treaty.

Recognizing the danger of the military-strategic consequences of the implementation of SDI programs, both delegations spoke out against spreading the arms race to space.

The Soviet side noted certain contradictions in the position of France, which continues to gear itself to building up arms, including nuclear arms; French firms are actually participating in the implementation of a number of projects linked with SDI.

Great attention was devoted to the progress of the all-European process and the prospects for the successful holding of the Vienna meeting. Mutual interest in developing and deepening the CSCE process was expressed.

During the meeting, it was noted that as historical esxperience shows, Soviet-French mutual understanding repeatedly has opened up opportunities for concrete steps to improve the international situation and strengthen security and cooperation in Europe and worldwide. [paragraph continues]

Under present conditions, consistent and coordinated efforts on the part of all interested states, including the USSR and France, are all the more necessary in the interests of strengthening peace. There remain considerable unutilized reserves in this area, the Soviet side stressed.

The proximity of the positions of the Soviet Union and France on the question of a political settlement of the Near East problem and in favor of convening an international conference on the Near East and setting up a preparatory committee within the framework of the UN Security Council was noted.

Both sides expressed concern at the continuing Iraq-Iran war and the threat that other countries could be drawn into the conflict and noted the need to strive to end the conflict through political talks and the stepping up of the UN role in settling the conflict.

During an examination of the state of political relations and bilateral cooperation between the USSR and France, the commitment of both sides to implement the accords reached during the meetings between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and President F. Mitterand in October 1985 and July 1986 was stressed. The need to enhance the role of Soviet-French dialogue in international affairs was noted, despite the differences that exist in approaches to a number of international problems.

Parliamentary ties, which have become one of the most stable elements of Soviet-French exchanges, par part and parcel of this dialogue. Both sides advocated the maintenance and expansion of the active and regular nature of contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the French National Assembly.

On behalf of the leadership of the USSR Supreme Soviet Chambers' Foreign Affairs Commissions, a luncheon was given in honor of the delegation of French parliamentarians.

The same day, Y. Pagniez held a dinner to mark the delegation's stay.

The Soviet side was represented at the dinner by A.F. Dobrynin and other officials.

JOINT ITALIAN SCI-TECH COOPERATION BODY MEETS

PM251443 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Pershin dispatch: "New Prospects"]

[Text] Rome — The fourth session of the Soviet-Italian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in the Italian capital 16 through 19 February.

It summed up the results and examined the prospects for scientific and technical cooperation between our countries and defined new spheres for it taking account of the long-term comprehensive programs for development of the Soviet economy and the priority avenues for the development of applied research in Italy.

The session noted that in recent years Soviet-Italian scientific and technical cooperation has continued to develop successfully. This in turn has promoted the development of economic relations and a strengthening of the atmosphere of trust and friendship between the two countries. The session protocol noted that the May 1985 talks in Moscow between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Italian Premier B. Craxi were of great importance for the entire range of Soviet-Italian relations.

The Soviet delegation, headed by K.M. Dyumayev, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, presented the Italian side with a draft program for deepening Soviet-Italian cooperation in the sphere of science and technology over a 10-year period (1987-1997). This program, which envisages joint work in the sphere of nuclear power, health and medicine, environmental protection, agriculture, and other areas, will be ratified at the next, fifth, session of the joint commission.

"The fulfillment of the program," Bruno Corti, head of the Italian delegation and Italian under secretary for foreign affairs, said in conversation with this correspondent, "could lead to the expansion of economic and industrial cooperation in various spheres on the basis of the use of new forms of cooperation — scientific-production and industrial cooperation, and the modernization of existing enterprises by using new technology and equipment. "I believe," B. Corti continued, "that great positive experience has been accumulated in the sphere of Soviet-Italian scientific and technical ties. However, life moves forward, and what yesterday seemed the summit of achievement today already looks inadequate. That is why we advocate seeking new spheres of cooperation that would accord with the interests of Italy and the Soviet Union. We throughly have studied the draft program presented by the Soviet side and will continue work on it."

PRAVDA ON U.S., SPANISH DIFFERENCES ON BASES, AID

PM040945 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 87 Second Edition p 7

[Own correspondent V. Chernyshev dispatch: "The Card Washington Sees as Trumps"]

[Text] Madrid, 24 Feb -- The Spaniards themselves do not know what they want -- this was the essence of a statement by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz on the talks between Washington and Madrid on reducing the U.S. military presence in Spain. Testifying before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Budget Appropriations [as published], the head of the U.S. foreign policy department declared literally: "The Spaniards are not at all sore about the number of U.S. servicemen they would like to have on their territory."

This claim by Shultz caused amazement and annoyance in government circles in Madrid. I. Arias, chief of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Information Administration, declared in this regard that "The Spanish proposals on reducing the U.S. presence in Spain were officially submitted to the U.S. side in writing at the first round of the talks, held in Madrid last July."

It is difficult to believe that Shultz was either uninformed of these proposals or has simply forgotten them. First, Madrid stubbornly insisted on these proposals at the subsequent three rounds of the talks, and second, Shultz was personally briefed on the Spanish stance on this issue by Spanish Prime Minister F. Gonzalez during their November 1985 meeting in New York and by Foreign Minister F. Fernandez-Ordonez in the course of a recent conversation in Brussels during the NATO Council session.

How then is one to explain this forgetfulness by the chief of the U.S. foreign policy department? In the Spanish capital it is attributed to Washington's annoyance with Madrid's intransigence at the talks and by a desire to pressure Spain into being more amenable. The United States, diplomatic circles in Madrid declared, is perfectly aware of the "central and nonnegotiable" point of Spain's stance.

Even though the Spanish Government has not officially announced its demands, the Madrid press claims that the issue concerns the complete withdrawal of the 401st tactical aviation subunit, consisting of 79 F-16 aircraft, from the U.S. base at Torrejon de Ardoz near Madrid and the transfer of tanker aircraft from the air force base at Saragossa. Washington is categorically objecting to this under the pretext that the virtual closure of the two bases would "seriously weaken the southern flank of the West's defense."

Shultz declared in the House of Representatives that the bases in Spain are very important for the United States and, therefore, Congress had acted precipitately in cutting down on military aid to Madrid. "When we are forced to give the Spaniards such news about cutbacks in aid and the impossibility of helping them improve their defense capability," he declared, "no one should be surprised that the talks are going very badly." This claim by Shultz caused bewilderment in official circles in Madrid, which declare that U.S. military aid has nothing to do with Spain's demands to reduce the number of U.S. bases and that, even if aid from across the ocean were to be substantially increased, Madrid's stance would remain unchanged.

"What cards does Shultz intend to play?" the Spanish press asks. First he declares that if Madrid maintains its stubbornness at the talks then the Americans would leave Spain altogether; next he claims that their bases are vitally important for the West's defense. Madrid has declared that, if the sides fail to reach agreement at the talks by November, Spain would be forced to refuse to extend the treaty with Washington giving bases on Spanish territory to the United States.

PRAVDA SUMMARIZES ZAGLADIN TALKS IN FRG

PM021225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meetings and Conversations in FRG"]

[Text] Bonn, 20 Feb — V.V. Zagladin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, visited the FRG from 15 through 19 February. In Bonn he met with FRG Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher of the Free Democratic Party; W. Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany; A. Dregger, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union Bundestag group; and members of the Green Party parliamentary group. In Duesseldorf he had a conversation with H. Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party, and members of the board of the German Communist Party Presidium.

During the meetings, V.V. Zagladin talked about the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, the process of restructuring that is taking place in all spheres of Soviet society's life, and the USSR's latest large-scale disarmament proposals. The conversations also touched on questions of further developing USSR-FRG relations and other international problems.

Zagladin on Reform Resistance

DW201136 Bonn DIE WELT in German 20 Feb 87 p 10

[Bernt Conrad article: "Zagladin Wants To Read the Chancellor's Government Statement 'With Pen' in Hand"]

[Excerpts] Bonn -- Statements by Soviet politicians and diplomats created the impression among Bonn experts that Moscow will accept the chancellor's forthcoming government statement as "a first step" in reviving and extending German-Soviet relations. It is taken for granted that Kohl will propose in the statement, according to his 13 January 1987 remark, a long-term policy of a dialogue and cooperation with Eastern neighbors, particularly the Soviet Union.

Obviously, the Soviet leadership is waiting for that signal, which is connected with the composition of a new federal government, to free the way for intensified contacts and an increased exchange of visitors. That includes -- as pointed out by Vadim Zagladin, fist deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, to journalists in Bonn -- a visit to Bonn by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, which is expected this spring. [passage omitted]

Zagladin, who met politicians of all parties in Bonn, commented in a remarkably frank way about resistance to Gorbachev's reform course. In doing so, he differentiated among four groups of Soviets:

1. The absolute majority, which approves of the reforms and presses for greater speed. That is expressed in thousands of letters.

2. Passive people who support democratization, but who take a temporizing attitude. Zagladin: "They slow things down."

3. People with conservative habits; for example, those in ministries who for decades have been used to administrative measures. Zagladin: "They consider new methods hostile to themselves, personally."

4. A small group that has created privileges for itself and that has violated laws. The party is fighting them now, said Zagladin.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ITALY'S FANFANI VISIT

Meets Tolkunov, Zagladin

PM031119 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Talk at USSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] On 24 February, a meeting took place at the USSR Supreme Soviet between A. Fanfani, chairman of the Italian Senate, Senate commission chairmen G. Benedetti, L.G. Giugni, and M.F. Aggradi and L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Supreme Soviet deputies V.V. Zagladin, I.D. Laptev, N.I. Maslennikov, and M.P. Trunov.

During the meeting, which passed in an atmosphere of warmth and mutual interest in a better knowledge of the situation and processes developing in both countries, there was a detailed exchange of opinions on questions of the activity of the parliaments of the USSR and Italy, in particular in the legislative sphere and on questions of their liaison and relationships with the mass media and the public.

Both sides voiced opinions on the present world situation. The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies provided information on the Soviet leadership's peace-loving initiatives. The guests' attention was drawn to M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the international forum "For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity." The common opinion was voiced regarding the need to make headway on the path of nuclear disarmament and the reduction of conventional armaments, the political solution of regional conflicts, and the development of all-European cooperation. The growing role of parliaments and parliamentary exchanges in the development of these processes was noted.

A. Fanfani invited the chairman of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet to pay a return visit to Italy. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction.

On the same day, a luncheon was held on behalf of the chairman of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the occasion of the visit of the chairman of the Italian Senate.

Concludes Visit

LD251109 Moscow TASS in English 1052 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS -- Amintore Fanfani, president of the Senate of the Italian Republic, left the Soviet Union today.

He was on an official visit here at the invitation of the chairman of the houses of the USSR Supreme Soviet (Parliament).

FURTHER DETAILS ON SOLOVYEV'S VISIT TO LIBYA

Addresses Congress

PM051439 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Relations Developing"]

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Mar -- Yu. F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Party Obkom, who is taking part in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power in Libya, had a meeting with M. al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in the city of Sabha. Yu. F. Solovyev conveyed anniversary congratulations to the leadership and people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from the CPSU and the Soviet people. He confirmed the Soviet Union's support for the Libyan Jamahiriyah's anti-imperialist course and the two countries expressed their mutual desire to further develop friendly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation between the USSR and Libya.

M. al-Qadhdhafi expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its solidarity with the support for the Libyan people's struggle.

Yu. F. Solovyev addressed a session of the Libyan General People's Congress yesterday in the city of Sabha.

He said that the 1 September revolution dealt a serious blow to imperialism in this part of the world. Libya's active support for national liberation movements and its struggle against the neoglobalist course of the United States and its allies is provoking hatred in its enemies, who have launched a campaign of threats, blackmail, and armed provocation against this sovereign Arab country.

Soviet people, Yu. F. Solovyev continued, are in solidarity with the Libyan people's courageous struggle against imperialism and to strengthen their country's independence and advance along the path of progressive development. When the American military subjected Libyan territory to a barbaric bomb attack last spring, the USSR's position was reflected in its moral, political, diplomatic, and military support for friendly Libya.

Soviet-Libyan relations, the CPSU representative went on to stress, have developed considerably in recent years in all areas. Our cooperation is based on the principles of equality, respect for one another's sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The visit by M. al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to Moscow in 1985 and his talks with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, during which a long-term program was signed for the development of economic, scientific and technical, and trade coopeation between our countries, had great significance in the development of this cooperation.

The Soviet Union, he continued, has now entered a new, crucial stage in its development, which consists in mobilizing all of the vast potential inherent in socialism in order to greatly speed up our socioeconomic and political development. This is the basis of the strategic course developed by the 27th CPSU Congress -- a course aimed at ensuring the restructuring of every area of life in our society. An important landmark in the implementation of the party congress decisions was the January (1987) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, at which ways to ensure the maximum development of Soviet democracy in the restructuring process and real participation by the people in the country's management were discussed.

In the international arena, Yu.F. Solovyev continued, the Soviet Union is waging a persistent struggle to stop the senseless nuclear arms race begun by imperialism, prevent the spread of this arms race into space, and achieve general nuclear disarmament.

Discussing the situation in the Near East, Yu.F. Solovyev pointed out that the United States and Israel are sabotaging efforts aimed at a just settlement of the Near East conflict. Imperialist, Zionist intrigues can be foiled if countered by the Arab peoples' united will. The conflict situation in the Near East can only be resolved by collective effort. This is the aim of the idea of setting up a preparatory committee, with the participation of permanent members of the UN Security Council, on the convening of an international peace conference on the Near East.

Imperialism is to blame, Yu.F. Solovyev continued, for the fact that the problem of security in the Mediterranean is still serious. In favor of turning this region into a zone of lasting peace and cooperation, the Soviet Union has proposed that USSR and U.S. fleets be withdrawn from the Mediterranean and an international conference be convened to discuss Mediterranean problems. We note with satisfaction that these proposals have met with understanding from the Libyan leadership.

Returns From Libya

LD041730 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1615 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 4 Mar (TASS) -- Yuriy Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningrad Obkom, returned from Libya today. He had been taking part in activities devoted to the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power in that country, at the invitation of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

TATLIYEV-LED DELEGATION VISIT TO SUDAN DETAILED

PM051453 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Visit By USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation to the Republic of Sudan"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by S.B. Tatliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was in the Republic of Sudan on an official visit on 17-25 February.

The delegation was received by A. al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese Supreme Council, and Sudanese Prime Minister S. al-Mahdi.

There was a detailed exchange of opinions with M. Khalil, chairman of the Sudanese Constitutional Assembly, and Sudanese parliamentarians on topical issues and the prospects of developing bilateral relations.

The Soviet parliamentarians also had meetings with S. al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with a number of other ministers in the Sudanese government.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation visited an agricultural complex in Gezir province and a number of Soviet-Sudanese cooperation projects and was familiarized with the life and work of the Sudanese people.

In the course of the meetings and conversations the sides discussed questions concerning the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Sudanese Constitutional Assembly, stressed the importance of resuming contacts between the two countries' legislative organs, and spoke in favor of their further development. It was noted in this respect that interparliamentary ties help to strengthen trust and mutual understanding between the Soviet and Sudanese peoples.

The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies informed the Sudanese parliamentarians of the Soviet people's achievements in various areas of life in the light of the decisions taken by the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, which reaffirmed the strategic course aimed at speeding up the country's socioeconomic development. They talked in detail about USSR foreign policy activity and the extensive Soviet initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race, averting the threat of nuclear war, and improving the international climate. In this connection the attention of the Sudanese side was drawn to M.S. Gorbachev's 15 January 1986 statement, in which he set out a program to eliminate nuclear and other types of mass destruction weapons by the end of the century, to the USSR Supreme Soviet 19 November 1986 Appeal urging all peace-loving forces to step up their efforts to achieve accords on the way to a nuclear-free world, and to the Delhi Declaration signed by the USSR and Indian leaders on the principles of a world free of nuclear weapons and violence, as a kind of code of conduct for states in the nuclear-space age.

The Sudanese side reaffirmed the Republic of Sudan's desire for peace and the lessening of international tension and expressed its support for the Soviet peace initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race and preventing a nuclear catastrophe.

During a discussion of the Near East situation the sides voiced concern over the dangerous atmosphere that still prevails here as a consequence of the continuing Israeli occupation of Arab lands and the disregard for the Arab people of Palestine's legitimate rights.

The Soviet side confirmed the belief that lasting peace in the Near East can only be achieved by collective effort and by convening an international conference on the Near East involving all interested parties, including the PLO.

The USSR and Sudanese parliamentarians expressed concern in connection with the continuing senseless war between Iran and Iraq.

During a discussion of bilateral USSR-Sudanese relations the sides spoke in favor of their further development in the light of the accords reached during a visit to the USSR by Sudanese Prime Minister S. al-Mahdi in August 1986.

The USSR and Sudanese parliamentarians voiced the belief that the exchange of opinions during the Soviet delegation's visit will help to further develop constructive political dialogue between the USSR and Sudan.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation expressed gratitude to the Sudanese side for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to it during its visit to the Republic of Sudan.

On behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet delegation invited a Sudanese Constitutional Assembly delegation to pay a return visit to the Soviet Union.

OFFICIAL PRAISES JOINT RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT

LD260320 Kuwait KUNA in English 0940 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow, Feb 85 (KUNA) -- A senior Soviet official has praised the outstanding Soviet-Kuwaiti relations of cooperation in all spheres.

The TASS news agency said that member of the communist party's Central Committee and Deputy Premier Nikolay Maslennikov was addressing a ceremony hosted at the Friendship Hall last night on the occasion of Kuwait's 26th National Day.

He was quoted as saying that the Kuwait-Moscow diplomatic relations which will enter its 25th year in 1988 have been based on "doctrines of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs."

Relations between the two countries is distinctive by regular and political consultations, exchange of visits on various levels and cooperation within the U.N. and other international organizations, Maslennikov added.

Developing bilateral relations serve "friendship and cooperation and the two countries' interests in addition to world peace and security world over and particularly in the Middle East," he said.

The Soviet official asserted that Moscow calls for converting the Indian Ocean into a peace zone and non-spread of military alliance" to the Arab Gulf region.

Kuwait's Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Soviet Union 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj said in a similar statement that Kuwait and the Soviet Union's stances are "identical" toward international political questions and the situation in the Arab region.

TASS quoted him as saying "we follow up with concern Moscow's efforts to unify ranks of the Palestinian resistance and hopes that the Soviet Union will exert all what it can to terminate the Iraq-Iran war."

Kuwait supports Soviet efforts targeting "an end to nuclear tests and converting the Indian Ocean into a peace zone," Al-Du'ayj stressed.

He was further quoted as saying that Soviet efforts to find a settlement to the Afghan problems was met in Kuwait with "satisfaction."

Meanwhile, daily PRAVDA Wednesday hailed Kuwait's stable foreign policy in an article on the occasion of the country's 26th National Day.

The paper elaborated on Kuwaiti role in various world issues and evaluated Kuwaiti-Soviet relations.

ARMY PAPER CARRIES AL-QADHDHAFI CHAD PROPOSALS

PM041213 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Situation in Chad"]

[Text] Paris, 3 March -- Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has offered Libya's services as an intermediary in the talks on national conciliation in Chad, AFP reports. Speaking in the city of Sabha, he stressed that the withdrawal of French and U.S. troops from Chad must be an essential condition for the initiation of such talks.

The United States and France, M. al-Qadhdhafi said, are trying to turn Chad into their military base in central Africa, in the immediate vicinity of Libya's borders. Since the failure of Washington's aggression against the Libyan people in April last year imperialism has been nurturing aggressive new plans against Libya. As is well known, French military reinforcements have been transferred to Chad recently to help Hissein Habre's regime. The numbers of the French troops now total nearly 3,000.

There are up to 500 U.S. servicemen in Chad. M. al-Qadhdhafi has reported that the Americans are now operating not only in Ndjamena but also directly on the 16th parallel along which the agreed dividing line passes between the regions controlled by the Habre regime and the Provisional Government of National Unity (GUNT).

The fact that U.S. servicemen have appeared in the region of the fighting between the troops of the Habre regime, supported by French subunits, and the GUNT forces was confirmed by GUNT Chairman Acheikh Ibn Omar when he spoke on Libyan television. Washington, he pointed out, has already supplied the Ndjamena authorities with large consignments of weapons and military materiel. A. Ibn Omar expressed the determination to continue the armed struggle against France and the United States which are carrying out armed interference in the conflict in Chad. GUNT, its leader said, cannot recognize or obey the puppet government created by the force of French and U.S. arms.

Habre's troops retain control over the southern regions of Chad only thanks to France's direct intervention carried out with the support of U.S. imperialism.

A. Ibn Omar stressed GUNT's readiness for a peaceful solution of the internal Chad conflict. In this connection he announced a unilateral truce which will be observed by his troops for 3 days beginning yesterday.

IZVESTIYA VIEWS CHAD SITUATION, FRENCH ROLE

PM251633 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 3

[M. Pavlov commentary under the rubric "Facts, Events, Opinions": "The French Sword Over Chad"]

[Text] Hawks return to their nests to rest after hunting small birds, lizards, and frogs. [paragraph continues]

But the hawks in military uniform -- the French soldiers who are part of the interventionist operation under the code name "Hawk" -- are doing the very opposite. They are leaving their old haunts in the Central African Repbulic and arriving in Chad for another, bigger "hunt."

According to the newspaper LE FIGARO, further reinforcements have recently been transferred there and so the French contingent in Chad now incorporates approximately 3,500 servicemen and dozens of fighter planes and helicopters covered by "Crotale" missiles, American "Stingers," and 20 mm guns with radar guidance.

Why has France had to strengthen its already powerful military fist? To "suppress" Libya, it seems. Acheikn Ibn Oumar, president of the Transitional Government of National Unity, does not deny that it receives military and material support from Libya. He says: "There is nothing bad about the Transitional Government turning to a fraternal African country when Habre receives extensive aid from France, the United States, and Israel." Last week these countries actively transferred ammunition, weapons, and other hardware for Ndjamena, using the center set up by France at Kalait on the 16th parallel, which divides Chad into territory controlled by Habre and the northern regions held by the Transitional Government.

According to the magazine L'EXPRESS, Habre has requested 200 million francs from Paris, as well as extra arms, including missiles. One can assume, the Paris press writes, that France will satisfy this demand. Meanwhile mercenaries are being recruited in France to fight the Transitional Government.

Paris is attempting to justify its armed intervention in Chad... by saying it was asked to do so by certain African leaders. However, recent statements by the leaders of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Togo, and Niger show that not only did they not make such a request of Paris but, on the contrary, regard its actions in Chad as an attempt to undermine security on the African continent.

Serious doubts have also been raised by the argument of French Defense Minister A. Giraud, who spoke in an interview with the radio station France-inter as if France is in Chad in accordance with a treaty. Statements like these, Libya's JANA observes, contradict earlier statements by French officials. For example, in December 1985 President F. Mitterrand said that there are no agreements between his country and Chad which envisage joint defense. The same thing was said by C. Hernu, former French defense minister, in an interview with the newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS at the beginning of the year. This means, JANA concludes, that Giraud's statement is nothing other than a clumsy attempt to justify his government's Chad policy and prepare public opinion for the possibility of a massive invasion to the north of the 16th parallel. The recent catastrophe involving a French "Puma" helicopter which was making a reconnaissance flight over territory controlled by the Transitional Government 50 km north of this parallel, reported by LE MONDE, shows that Paris is at least secretly violating the "red line." Observers have noted France's skeptical reaction to the initiative of Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the OAU, which envisages convening a meeting for national reconciliation in Chad without outside interference. But this runs counter to France's plans, as, together with the United States, it is impeding the establishemnt of peace in this country.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON YELTSIN IN NICARAGUA

Says U.S. 'Strangling' Country

LD041502 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Matagalpa (Nicaragua) March 4 TASS -- TASS correspondents Aleksandr Trushin and Andrey Kurguzov report:

The purpose of the visit to Nicaragua of a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet is a further consolidation of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and Nicaragua, the acquaintance with the struggle and work of the revolutionary Nicaraguan people. This has been stated by the head of the delegation Boris Yeltsin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee,member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first secretary of the Moscow Party Committee.

The delegation is staying in Nicaragua on an official visit at the invitation of the National Assembly of the republic.

Addressing a rally Tuesday at La Fundadora, an advanced state-owned coffee-producing farm in Matagalpa Department, Boris Yeltsin said that the path of the Sandinista revolution was a difficult one. People's power in Nicaragua is about seven years old.

Enemies do not let the Nicaraguan people to freely work and build a peaceful life [sentence as received]. The revolution has done much for the working people But it could have done even more, had it not been for the aggression unleashed by the United States.

According to Yeltsin, the Soviet people's attitude to Nicaraguans is that of sincere respect and liking. Friends of the Nicaraguan people cannot but be indignant over the open attempts of imperialism and its mercenaries to strangle the people's revolution, to establish with the help of bullets their own order in that country which is resolutely rejected by the Nicaraguan people.

Speaking at the meeting, President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua has said that the relations between the Soviet Union and Nicaragua are based on the principles of mutual respect, independence, self-determination and national sovereignty. When the American Administration sent its mercenaries to Nicaragua to plant mines in ports, to blow up oil storages and stopped deliveries of food products and industrial commodities to Nicaragua, the Soviet Union was the first to have helped us. The United States shall not put Nicaragua to its knees through subversive acts, destructions and killings. American mercenaries are sustaining a failure and will finally be routed, said Daniel Ortega.

He expressed support for the Soviet Union's new peace initiatives for elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and noted that the USSR's proposal is concrete, realistic and is called upon to strengthen peace.

We support the Contadora group's efforts for a peaceful solution of the crisis in Central America and will do the utmost to consolidate the Contadora process, said the president of Nicaragua. He backed up Brazil's decision to stop paying interest rate on the fettering foreign trade loans.

Daniel Ortega expressed Nicaragua's readiness to resume a peace dialogue with the American Administration in order to find a political solution of the Central American crisis. The Nicaraguan leader denounced the Washington ruling circles' stake on military invasion of Nicaragua, and called for enhancing vigilance, strengthening defensive capacity, discipline and improving efficiency of production.

Exchanges 'Bitter Words'

PA041921 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1816 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Managua, 4 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A Nicaraguan political opposition leader and the chief of a soviet parliamentary delegation today exchanged bitter words about Soviet aid to the Sandinist government.

The Soviet delegation, which has been visiting this capital for the past 3 days, held a 1-hour meeting today with Nicaraguan Socialist, Liberal, Social Christian, and Conservative leaders all of whom are in the legislative opposition.

Soviet Deputy Boris Yeltsin, chief of the delegation, urged the opposition parties "not to follow the Soviet model of society or the U.S. system."

Social Christian leader Mauricio Diaz replied that the internal political opposition valued the Soviet aid but that it believes that it "should be without conditions." This comment caused an immediate reaction in Boris Yeltsin who said he "felt offended" by the Social Christian politician's words.

"We are not inviting you to follow either the Soviet or the U.S. path because you have your own unique revolutionary path," the Soviet deputy replied.

Mauricio Diaz insisted that "Soviet support with conditions for Nicaragua will not contribute to the country's democratization." The politician argued that no power "supports any government without political interests at state." He was referring to Moscow's economic and military aid to the Sandinists.

Boris Yeltsin replied that the aid to Nicaragua is "without strings attached" and that it is prompted by solidarity with the Nicaraguan people." "We, the Soviets, support a unique model in Nicaragua, not a copy of the Soviet model, because your revolution is nationalist and democratic," Yeltsin noted. He told the opposition deputies that the government of Mikhail Gorbachev is not interested in "imposing an ideological system or a social regime" in particular, such as socialism, in Nicaragua.

The Social Democratic deputy stated that without Soviet aid to the Sandinist government, the contras would already be in Nicaragua.

The USSR provides Nicaragua with 90 percent of its oil and an undisclosed amount of weapons. Also, 50 percent of Nicaragua's imports come from the socialist countries by means of CEMA.

The press was able to witness part of the dialogue between the opposition and Soviet deputies, which was held in a hall of the legislative assembly. However, members of the press were later asked to withdraw.

Ortega Assesses Visit

LD052047 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2000 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Managua, 5 Mar (TASS) -- The official friendship visit to Nicaragua by a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, headed by B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the CPSU Moscow Gorkom has ended. The delegation was in Nicaragua from 2-5 March at the invitiation of the republic's National Assembly. After the delegation's departure, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega stated to newsmen that the results of the visits by the USSR Supreme Soviet's delegation confirmed the relations of friendship and solidarity between Nicaragua and the USSR. In the course of the visit an exchange of views on international issues and the situation in the Central American region took place. The Nicaraguan leadership briefed the Soviet parliamentarians on the development of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process, which is proceeding in the difficult conditions of unceasing U.S. aggression, Daniel Ortega noted.

Departs Nicaragua

LD051939 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1918 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Managua, 5 Mar (TASS) -- The official friendly visit to Nicaragua by a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom, has come to an end. The delegation left Managua for home today. At Sandino International Airport, the delegation was seen off by Daniel Ortega, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, Carlos Nunez, chairman of the National Assembly, and other officials.

Meets Castro in Cuba

LD060023 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2335 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Havana, 6 TASS -- The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, first secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU, while on the way back home after completing its official friendly visit to Nicaragua, on Thursday made a short stop in Cuba. At Havana/International airport, named after Jose Marti, the delegation was greeted by Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, chairman of the State Council and the Republican Council of Ministers, and by other officials. Fidel Castro and B.N. Yeltsin held a conversation in a warm and fraternal atmosphere. Members of the delegation took a tour of Havana. The same day the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet left for Moscow.

PRAVDA CITES ARGENTINE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

PM051242 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "A. Fava Press Conference"]

[Text] The revolutionary significance of the restructuring taking place in the USSR goes far beyond the bounds of that country and the socialist community countries. [paragraph continues]

This factor has an increasing influence on the development of the entire world communist and workers' movement. That was said by A. Fava, secretary general of the Commmunist Party of Argentina [PCA]. He was speaking at a meeting with Soviet and foreign correspondents at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center on 4 March.

The policy now pursued by the CPSU is a new epoch in the Soviet Union's development, the Argentine communist said. The restructuring will create the necessary conditions for winning new victories in the interests of peace and democracy. In the course of the meeting between the PCA delegation and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on 3 March, we spoke of how this new policy will make it possible to strike from the hands of the bourgeoisie the anticommunist banners it brandishes in the attempt to win people's minds. When the CPSU realizes its plans the creative potential of Soviet society will be fully revealed. This will cause confusion among certain circles in the imperialist camp.

A. Fava spoke in detail about the delegation members' meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, sketched out the processes now taking place in Argentine society and the distribution of class forces in his country at the present stage, explained the PCA's policy elaborated at its 16th congress, and stressed that Argentine communists are in the front ranks of the fighters for democracy.

GUSEV-LED CPSU DELEGATION VISITS CUBA 18-27 FEB

PM051355 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU party workers headed by V.P. Gusev, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee trade and consumer services section, visited Cuba from 18 through 27 February in accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. During meetings and conversations at party committees, enterprises, and institutions an exchange of experience took place on the solution of social problems and the party leadership of the trade and consumer services sphere.

The delegation was received by J. Crombet, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat.

POLITBURO DISCUSSES ECONOMICS, FOREIGN CONTACTS

LD051825 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] At the CPSU Central Committee Politburo:

At its meeting which took place on 5 March the CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined the question of additional measures to speed up the development of the mechanization of agriculture. In the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on this issue the attention of the appropriate ministries and departments is drawn to the serious lagging behind in the fulfillment of the program for the mechanization of agricultural production and additional measures are mapped out to considerably speed up the drawing up of designs, to increase the production of new agricultural equipment and to raise its quality. A further increase in the production capacities of agricultural machinebuilding, perfecting the organization of labor, raising the level of shift working, strengthening the base of design and scientiic organizations and utilizing progressive materials and assembly components is provided for. The services of enterprises of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee are being enlisted for the production of specialized agricultural equipment for zonal use. Party and state bodies have been instructed to step up organizational and political work to ensure the timely unconditional fulfillment of the set tasks regarding fitting out the country's agro-industrial complex in the fullest possible way with modern reliable equipment.

The Politburo, basing itself on the directives of the 27th party congress, has approved the proposal regarding the procedure for conducting the certification of senior officials of the apparatus of local soviet and public bodies which is to become an effective form of collective evaluation of cadres' work, of stimulating an increase in their qualifications, and of raising responsibility for business assigned to them and of raising standards in the work of that apparatus. It is to be conducted in a business like manner, in an atmosphere of adherence to principle and of objectivity, of wide openness and strict observance of the laws. The certification commissions provided for by the model regulation on certification determine whether officials meet the requirements for the posts they hold, give an evaluation of their political, work and moral qualities and make the necessary recommendations to the leading bodies.

The proposal to change over the USSR State Committee for Foreign Tourism to complete financial autonomy and foreign currency self-recouping and self-financing, drawn up by the government, has been approved. Specific organizational and economic measures to ensure the effective work of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Tourism and to more fully meet the demand of foreign and Soviet citizens for tourist services and to eliminate shortcomings existing here have been mapped out. Implementation of the aforesaid measures will make it possible to achieve qualitative changes for the better in the sphere of foreign tourism and to bring it up to the level of present-day requirements.

The Politburo heard a statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on his meeting with Fanfani, chairman of the Italian Senate, and Andreotti, the Italian foreign minister. It was noted that the meaningful exchange of opinions on questions of European and international security which took place was of great importance for enlivening the East-West dialogue and for the quest for ways of improving the international situation.

There was an examination of the results of the talks between the Soviet leadership and Prime Minister Hermannsson of Iceland during his official visit to the Soviet Union. Note was made of the proximity of the stands of both sides on questions of strengthening international security and stability, curbing the arms race, and the need for joint action by large and small states in the cause of perserving peace.

The Politburo approved the results of the conversation between Comrade Gorbachev and Fava, general secretary of the Argentine Communist Party. The unity of views held by the CPSU and the Argentine Communist Party on questions of the world situation today which were discussed was noted with satisfaction. There was a reaffirmation of their readiness to promote the comprehension and solution of the problems facing the international communist and workers' movement, and to continue the quest that is in the spirit of the times for forms of communication and cooperation between fraternal parties based on equal rights and interaction between communists and other forces in the struggle for a nuclear-free world and for the survival of mankind. Stress was laid on the mutual striving by the CPSU and the Argentine Communist Party to continue developing the traditional comradely relations linking the two parties.

Hearing a report by Comrade Slyunkov on the trip by the CPSU delegation to Portugal, the Politburo noted with satisfaction the unity of views held by the CPSU and the Portuguese Communist Party on cardinal questions of the struggle for peace, democracy and social progress. There was a reaffirmation of the solidarity of the CPSU with the struggle by the Portuguese Communist Party to defend the democratic gains of the Portuguese people.

The meeting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo also discussed some other questions of economic construction, party organizational and ideological work, and the development of cooperation with foreign countries.

PETRUNYA ON 'TOUGH, EFFECTIVE' ALCOHOL MEASURES

LD051309 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 5 TASS -- TASS commentator Vladimir Petrunya writes:

A joke popular in Moscow several months ago went as follows:

A city bus driver coming to a stop announces to the passengers: "Wine store. Next stop is the end of the queue."

As the novelty of the joke has worne off, so have, by all accounts, the hopes of a certain part of the male population for the nationwide anti-drink drive to peter out.

When the higher party and government bodies in April 1985 adopted a package of measures to limit alcohol abuse with the ultimate aim of stamping it out altogether, one found it hard to believe that a drunk would become a rare sight in Soviet cities in just one or one and a half years.

Today this is a reality which is taken for granted.

The administrative measures taken against drunkenness were really tough -- just as demanded by millions of letters that were coming to central agencies.

None of Mikhail Gorbachev's meetings with the people in different parts of the country has gone without requests from local folk, primarily women, to keep up the war on alcohol.

At first, there were some people, who hoped that it would turn out just another of the inconsistent campaigns declared on drink before, but they had to pay dearly for the misunderstanding.

A number of economic executives and party officials guilty of organizing collective drinking bouts were removed from their posts and expelled from the party. In the current atmosphere of public openness, such cases had a sobering effect on the others.

The image of drunkenness in public mentality is more and more that of a social evil which is incompatible with the process of democratization and improvements in social and economic relationships.

It is gratifying that the young are becoming increasingly indifferent to the wine-glass -- a non-prestigious attribute of modern life. Awareness is growing that one has to choose between drinking and making a career. Although the anti-drink policy has been both consistent and flexible, it has hit some most painful points.

The authorities, both central and local, have had to stand more than one charge by financial bodies pressing for holes in the budgets to be stopped with increased vodka sales. But not one go-ahead has been granted for such tactical compromises to the detriment of strategic perspective.

There has arisen also the problem of an alternative to drinking as a pastime. Measures were taken at once on a national scale to extend the network of holiday centers and recreational facilities and provide urban dwellers with more land allotments in the countryside to go in for gardening in a small way for pleasure. True, the pace of such efforts so far has not been as fast as desired.

Nevertheless, one can say safely that both the radicals campaigning for prohibition and the liberals who advocated fostering "cultured drinking" habits have turned out wrong.

It is measures that are tough but not extreme that have proved effective.

Last year's statistics showed a signficant drop in the mortality rate in this country to 9.7 per 1,000 people from 10.6 per 1,000 people in 1985. The result is largely due to the decline in alcohol consumption.

AFP ON WOULD-BE HIJACKER'S EXIT VISA REFUSED

AU051617 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Moscow, March 5 (AFP) -- Yuriy Federov, sentenced to 19 years in a labor camp for planning to hijack a Soviet plane to Israel, and freed in June 1985, was refused an exit visa Thursday, Yelena Bonner, wife of physicist Andrey Sakharov, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mrs Bonner said that the visa department notified Mr Fedorov of its refusal on the grounds that he has no relatives abroad. But, according to Mrs Bonner, he has a daughter living in the United States.

Mr Fedorov, who lives in Alexandrov east of Moscow, was sentenced in December 1970 to the labor camp for planning with 10 other persons to seize a plane in order to leave the country. The plan was never carried out. Mr Fedorov and one other member of the group were the only ones to serve their full sentences. [passage omitted]

TADZHIK TEACHER WINS RAYKOM POST OVER INCUMBENT

LD051412 Moscow TASS in English 1239 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Dushanbe March 5 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva:

A village teacher has been elected first secretary of the Dzhirgatal District Committee of the Communist Party of Tadzhikistan, a Soviet Central Asian Republic.

Zurakhon Davletaliyeva, 35, was elected by secret ballot by 35 votes against 13 at plenary meeting of the district committee.

Her competitor in the election was the then first secretary Abdulakhad Salokhov. His supporters emphasized his 20-year-old experience as first secretary and his contribution to the district's economic successes. Someone even mentioned eastern traditions. But Davletaliyeva's well-wishing character and genuine concern for people proved decisive in the ballot.

Committee member Saidzhon Burkhonov, a prominent potato grower, said at the meeting that the communists had made the right choice. Without belittling the services of the former leader, the old communist noted that Salokhov had centred his forgetting people's needs.

The last few years saw little housing construction in the district, there was also shortage of clubs and schools. "Our secretary tried to justify such a situation by pleading a shortage of building materials and personnel, whereas he lived in a luxurious cottage", Burkhonov said accusingly.

The villagers had noted Zurakhon's businesslike qualities and purposefulness long before and elected the young teacher a deputy of the district soviet of people's deputies, a local government body.

Complying with the elector's mandates, Davletaliyeva secured faster construction in the village of a two-storeyed school, a kindergarten and a small clothing-and-knitting factory. Flexible work schedules at the factory and a possibility to do part of the work at home attracted many women.

The villagers also remember another fact. When an earthquake shattered Dzhirgatal last October, Davletaliyeva took upon herself the unwomanly duties of heading a task force charged with the restoration of destroyed houses and social facilities.

Zurakhon's personal modesty characterized her when she was a teacher. She did not change on becoming a party leader, either. On the very first day of her work as first secretary she gave in instruction to convert the cottage of her predecessor into a youth lodging house.

She explained her decision in the following way: "One cannot always assess objectively the housing problem, so acute in our district, from a luxurious cottage. Besides, people are more accustomed to my usual address." A typical feature of the new first secretary's work style is that she always listens to people and consults them.

GORKIY INSTITUTE RECTOR REPRIMANDED, FIRED

LD041858 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] A report from Gorkiy: The first all-Russian competition in the system of tertiary medical training has been announced, to fill the vacant post of rector of the Gorkiy "Kirov" Institute of Medicine. The council of representatives of the collective of the higher educational institute will elect a candidate.

For many years the institute was headed by Professor Matyshin, quite a well known personage in Gorkiy. Over recent years he had lost interest in the process of education and training. Naturally, formalism, intolerance of criticism, and distaste for self-criticism began to flourish in the institute. Fertile ground for abuses was created. Restructuring of higher medical education passed the institute by.

All the negative phenomena have received a principled appraisal from the Gorkiy CPSU obkom and the RSFSR Ministry of Health. Matyushin, the rector, has been called sternly to account by the party. By order of the minister, he has been severely reprimanded and relieved of the post he occupied.

To rule out any atmosphere of "anything goes" henceforth, it has been decided to renounce secrecy in appointing a head for the institute. The competition to fill the vacant post of rector of the Gorkiy Institute of Medicine is continuing.

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS JOURNALISTS CONGRESS

LD131829 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Feb 87

[Text] The question of raising the role of the mass media in accelerating the socioeconomic development of Soviet society is the focus of attention at the congress of the Union of Journalists of the republic, which opened in Kiev today.

Taking part in the work of the congress is Comrade Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian communist party Central Committee.

Addresses Journalists

AU231435 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 15 Feb 87 pp 1-2

[RATAU report: "Businesslike Support for Restructuring -- The Sixth Congress of the Ukraine's Journalists Ends in Kiev"]

[Excerpts] The mass media play an important role in the pursuit of the party's economic strategy and social policy, and in the communist education of the working people. [paragraph continues]

In the Ukraine, there are 19 republic-level, 72 oblast, 111 city and city rayon, 423 rayon, 1,117 multicopy newspapers, nearly 200 journals and journal-type publications, 26 book publishing houses, a republic-level and 24 oblast television and radio committees. This is the powerful ideological potential of the republic's party organization.

An exacting and businesslike discussion on restructuring the mass media in light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Congresses and of the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee plenum, and on improvements in the forms and methods of work performed by editorial collectives at the present stage took place at the Sixth Congress of the Ukrainian Journalists Union held in the Session Hall of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on 13-14 February.

Participating in the congress proceedings were: V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; Yu.N. Yelchenko, A.P. Lyashko, I.A. Mozgovoy, V.A. Sologub, A.A. Titarenko, V.S. Shevchenko, V.A. Ivashko, V.D. Kryuchkov, S.N. Mukha, and Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members. [passage omitted]

The congress delegates were addressed by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary.

The party and all sound forces of society, he emphasized, are in favor of restructuring, and this political conclusion drawn by the January CPSU Central Committee plenum, which approved an expanded program for intensifying efforts in all its sectors, has been corroborated in our republic and all over the country.

In carrying out enormous work to renew all sides of our society's life, the CPSU Central Committee proceeds from the premise that this work needs a strong foundation of conviction. It signifies that the consciousness and psychology of the millions have to be shaped in the spirit of restructuring, that everyone has to be helped to find his or her place in the nationwide struggle for acceleration, and that the ideological and moral growth of our people has to be promoted. For this purpose our press and all mass media should restructure more vigorously, more purposefully.

As you can see, my task has been significantly facilitated by the fact that M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the meeting recently held in the CPSU Central Committee headquarters with leaders of the mass media was shown on television, broadcast by the radio, and published. In his speech, the CPSU Central Committee general secretary clearly expounded principled directives for the communists in editorial collectives and for all journalists, and these directives have to be complied with immediately. For this reason let me only tackle some questions concerning journalism, questions particularly topical for our republic.

I think you will agree, V.V. Shcherbitskiy continued, that in restructuring the mass media the tone and example are being set by the central party press and television. In this plane, changes for the better have also emerged in our republic.

Let us take, for example, RABOCHAYA GAZETA. Its material makes it evident that the editorial board is constantly looking for new topics, is aspiring to make each issue interesting.

The "Topics" television cast is becoming increasingly effective and interesting.

Steps in the right direction -- to look for and to promote everything that is new in life, and to more boldly pose acute problems -- are also evident in the work of Odessa and Lvov television and radio committees, in the columns of the newspapers INDUSTRIALNOYE ZAPOROZHYE, Kharkov KRASNOYE ZNAMYA, RADYANSKA ZHYTOMYRSHCHYNA, Chernigov DESNYANSKA PRAVDA, GORLOVKA KOCHEGARKA, and the paper of Sumy machine builders, FRUNZENETS.

Unfortunately, this is not applicable to RADYANSKA UKRAINA which is a leading newspaper even for its status. There is the impression that it is as if this newspaper has petrified in its development -- both in its content and even in outlay -- and is by no means able to free itself from the shackles of old, habitual attitudes and schemes.

I would like to point out that the newspaper had been submitted to earnest criticism even before. The legitimate question arises: Why is the paper's reaction -- to put it mildly -- so slow. By the way, Vladimir Yakovlevich Serobaba, in his report at the congress, could have set an exammple of self-critical attitude toward the results of his work and in this way reminded the congress of the topicality of this problem. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

It is to be noted that also some other republic-level, as well as many local publications, cannot find the way to rid themselves of old patterns and stereotypes. This was rightly pointed out by Comrades V.S. Burlay and A.G. Mikhaylenko.

In a word, the republic's press, television and radio broadcasting services are still slow in restructuring, some people are timid in getting off of the beaten track, and they need a hand.

As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev pointed out once again at the meeting, the January Central Committee plenum brought to the foreground the task of expanding democracy, openness, criticism, and self-criticism. After all, enhancing democracy is precisely the lever that permits the fullest use to be made of the inexhaustible creative potential of the people's initiative and creativity. This party line calls in earnest for a reinterpretation of the role, tasks, and methods of work performed by the mass media. What matters most is that the press, television, and radio broadcasting services indeed become a spokesman of the objective needs of social development and the vital interests of the widest masses, into a mouthpiece of the widest publicity, and a tribune to air the most effective solutions for life's problems, and thus enhance in action the party's unity with the people.

Apparently, some party committees are to be blamed for the failure to engage the mass media, in a vigorous and well timed way in accomplishing the pressing tasks of accelerating socioeconomic development.

As Mikhail Sergeyevich said figuratively, there are people who are utterly devoted to restructuring. They are heroes of our times. These are precisely the people, the workers, who should be the main characters in the press and on the television screens.

The fire of our press ciriticism has to be concentrated on shortcomings, on everything that prevents us from moving forward. Unfortunately, in some papers there are still strong aspirations to smooth sharp corners, to shun a frank conversation on the real state of affairs.

Can, for example, the reader of VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, ZORI POLTAVSHCHYNY, or of the Krivoy Rog CHERVONYY HIRNYK (by the way, the latter used to be a very interesting newspaper) have any real idea about the proceedings of a party committee plenum of aktivs meeting where critical remarks in accountability reports are omitted altogether, or criticism is impersonal and evidently smoothed out.

At the same time, publications and broadcast items must also avoid hasty assessments and groundless criticism, must not go astray, as was emphasized at the CPSU Central Committee plenum, while running after sensations or while looking for "flashy facts." Our people need the truth of life, and not a distorted image seen through either rosy or dark glasses.

Certainly, criticism must always be not only truthful -- truthfulness is an invariable condition for it -- but also directed with a maximum precision, and must not hurt the dignity of people. After all, there is always someone who can be specifically blamed for a specific shortcoming, and this culprit has to be named, literally dragged out and submitted, as they say, to the people's verdict. I hope you share this opinion.

Moreover, the January CPSU Central Committee plenum called for more efficiency in work. As far as our press is concerned, this implies the need to resolutely get rid primarily of useless chatter, of the practice of working by spurts, and of fancy initiatives. More efficiency also implies: to act independently without waiting for directives from above, to "disturb the peace" in the positive sense of the term, and to generate ideas, thoughts.

In connection with this V.V. Shcherbitskiy said: You know how difficult the beginning of the current year was for the national economy; this point was also discussed at the recent trade union congress. As the CPSU Central Committee Politburo correctly noted in its announcement on the results of the work performed in January, shortfalls in plan fulfillment and difficulties in the national economy were brought about primarily by serious miscalculations in the work, particularly those evident in the complex weather conditions. The responsible and difficult task which has been set is: to fully compensate for the arrears in the first quarter of the year, and to restore the rhythm of the annual plan as soon as possible.

How did our mass media operate under these circumstances? Did they sound the alarm immediately, did they open fire from all their guns, big and small, on "bottlenecks", on negligent economic leaders? Did they indicate the reserves available to compensate for the arrears? Unfortunately, many of them had to be prompted and literally to be urged themselves.

After all, it is known that the press can only perform its function when it keeps its finger on the pulse of life, when it immediately and efficiently responds to the challenges of life. It was precisely the immediate response to the topic of the day that was regarded by Vladimir Ilich Lenin as a pressing task of the press. "When you keep silent," Lenin wrote, "you drop behind! A paper that drops behind is doomed. The paper should advance ahead of all."

A decisive step forward has now been taken, primarily by showing experience in restructuring, the shoots of innovations. It is essential to study specific practice more carefully, to more rapidly pick up and more efficiently advertise the best things in the neighborhood -- in union republics, as well as in the fraternal socialist countries. Our links with the latter are growing closer and more varied.

In a word, the mass media have to struggle, I would even say they must fight, uncompromisingly to spread and to foster everything that is new, conceived as part of restructuring.

No matter how important production and economic matters are, attention to the social sphere, to problems concerning the satisfaction of people's daily needs and demands, to the cultivation of a respectful and solicitous attitude toward the worker and toward our veterans, must not be relaxed, but on the contrary, must be increased.

The need for this has also been attested to by the story, "Vasilina's Last Journey." The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has examined it and has published the results of the examination in the press.

In a word, the truth that has to be realized by everyone is: Without increasing attention to everything that concerns our people's lives and work, the tasks of accelerating and restructuring are infeasible.

Television broadcasting services are in the focus of disputes and opinions concerning the mass media and their work. In this respect, one thing is clear: Television programs have to be oriented even more toward the topics that interest and concern people. Efficiency and, one can say, an immediate response to events, a commentary by a competent and prestigious specialist -- this is what the millions of televiewers expect to obtain first of all.

In evaluating on merit the persistence of journalists in the struggle for restructuring, V.V. Shcherbitskiy continued, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee promotes their creative search in every way.

In the last 18 months alone, the Central Committee endorsed two RABOCHAYA GAZETA publications that clearly highlighted specific problems. The Central Committee also adopted decisions on publications made in PRAVDA UKRAINY and SILSKI VISTI. In 1986, obkoms adopted more than 120 decisions on various aspects of work done by the mass media organs, as well as in support of their publications.

However, the manifestations of an erroneous attitude toward press criticism still have not been finally eradicated. Recently, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo examined the article "Overstepping the Mark" published in PRAVDA. The criticism of Voroshilovgrad Obkom has been found to be valid.

An on-the-spot study of the situation showed that the party line aimed at restructuring had met with support on the part of the oblast communists and all working people. This has been manifested in the growing labor and political activity, and in the overfulfillment of the plans for industrial production, including by coal mining and metallurgical enterprises. The targets have also beeen met for the procurement of stockbreeding produce, and for the commissioning of houses and facilities for sociocultural purposes.

At the same time, many party organizations in the oblast are still slow in restructuring. No effective masures have been taken to eliminate depressive phenomena in the economy and the social sphere, and to accelerate scientific-technological progress. There have been infringements of socialist legality and cases of erroneous reaction to criticism.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has resolved to relieve Comrade B.T. Goncharenko of the duties of obkom first secretary and to discuss at a Voroshilovgrad Obkom plenum the issue of measures to eliminate the revealed shortcomings and to strengthen the leadership of the oblast party organization. [paragraph continues]

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat and republic-level organs have been instructed to give the oblast practical assistance in restructuring, to examine and to settle concrete questions concerning the acceleration of the oblast's socioeconomic development.

Unfortunately, there have also been cases of an erroneous attitude toward press publications in Lvov and Dnepropetrovsk Oblasts. The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee will examine them. We have also learned about some party committees which, instead of reinforcing critical publications, severely reproved the editors of their newspapers for allegedly too sharp publications. In particular, this was incurred by Comrade V.S. Shcherbina, Yelanetskiy Raykom first secretary in Nikolayev Oblast; Comrade V.V. Polgorodnik, Dobropolskiy Raykom first secretary in Donetsk Oblast; and Comrade P.M. Zoruk, Rozhishchenskiy Raykom first secretary in Volyn Oblast. The cases of stifling criticism have also been referred to in the accountability report and the speeches by the delegates. Of course, we will not leave such cases without adequate reaction.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has drawn up additional measures to raise the level of party control over the republic's press, as well as to improve the system of training and retraining journalist cadres. In view of the fact that -- judging from the speeches delivered by Comrades V.A. Moyseyev, B.N. Narizhnyy, N.F. Okhmakevich, and A.I. Bulavko -- this problem is disturbing for many people, let me dwell on it at some length.

Certainly, the education of cadres equal to the present requirements is not a simple matter. Those who should be constantly engaged in it are basic party organizations and leaders of editorial boards. Their important task should be to shape the civil positions of journalists, to facilitate their professional growth, and to create a creative, and at the same time exacting, atmosphere in collectives.

I will not be telling you any secrets when I say that a matter of paramount importance is to select for training talented young people who like journalism and who are willing to dedicate themselves to this difficult job. What compels me to speak about this is the following disturbing fact. Notwithstanding the fact that the republic trains 390 young journalists each year, there is an acute shortage of them in editorial boards -- particularly in rayon newspapers -- and the inflow of fresh and young forces is very weak.

The question arises: What is the reason? An analysis shows that significant part of graduates from departments of journalism accept jobs that have nothing to do with their training. In addition, about 200 editorial staff members each year quit their jobs for various reasons. This seems to be a matter which should be pondered by newspaper editors, party committees, and the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

Thought should also be given to the fact that, in many of our republic-level party newspapers and journals and in more than a half of oblast papers, editors are in, or close to, the retirement age, and worthy replacements have by no means been prepared for them everywhere. As far as cadre reserves in city and rayon newspapers are concerned, things are even more complex. In the menatime, there is almost no change for the better.

That is why I also second the critical remarks made by Comrades A.A. Pelagnyuk, N.A. Belokon, V.G. Polevaya, A.V. Pivnenko, and others with regard to the organization of professional cadre training and retraining within the republic's Journalists Union. [paragraph continues]

We second the proposal to establish a center for the training and retraining of journalist cadres, and consider that adequate facilities for these purposes are available at the Higher Party School under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. It would be possible to concentrate in this center courses for improving the qualifications of journalists, as well as to organize exercises for creative sections, and press conferences. The center could also integrate a Journalist House which was mentioned today. By the way, the position assumed to the creation of such a house by the Union's leadership is obviously passive.

Thought should also be given to the existing structure of our press -- from multicopy to republic-level newspapers. Is it sufficiently suitable for accomplishing the new tasks?

We consider that more attention must be paid to the briefing of journalists, particularly in the field -- in oblasts and rayons. In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, we will continue to meet journalists regularly and arrange press conferences.

Here is the last issue, concerning the efforts to strengthen the material base of the mass media, and to improve working and living conditions for media personnel. Since the last journalists congress, a great deal has been done in this respect. This applies above all, to city and oblast newspapers. The material and technical base of the Ukraine's Radio-Telegraph Agency has been radically improved. Although belated, steps are being taken to reorganize the RADYANSKA UKRAINA printing combine.

It is essential to do much more and better. In particular, as the delegates correctly noted, we must hasten the construction of a studio complex [apparatno-studiynyy kompleks] for the republic's television, must do our best to compensate for the arrears that have been incurred and to put the complex into service, as scheduled, by the end of the 5-year period.

Comrades P.Ye. Yesipenko and M.A. Orlik, Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairmen, are expected to keep the construction of this facility, which is highly important for ideological work, under their constant control.

More concern for improving working conditions for journalists has also to be shown by the Ukrainian State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade, by the board of the republic's Journalists Union, as well as by party committees and administrative bodies, primarily in Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk, and Lvov Oblasts.

Particular pains have to be taken to provide journalists with dwellings, and this was also a point mentioned by the congress delegates. In this respect, a great deal depends on local initiatives. Whereas, for example, in Volyn and Zhitomir Oblasts there are practically no journalists in need of housing, creative press and television workers in Vinnitsa, Kharkov, and Nikolayev Oblasts have been waiting for a settlement of the housing problem for many years.

At the end V.V. Shcherbitskiy said: Our people will undoubtedly welcome their festive day -- the 70th anniversary of the Great October -- in a worthy manner. In connection with this historic date, our enemies, including bourgeois nationalists of all brands, have launched a malicious campaign.

Of course, the class adversary has not only to be rebuffed, but also to be "restified" [perezhat"] ideologically. Additional measures have been taken in the republic to improve the entire mass of political work, and to intensify our people's patriotic and internationalist tempering. This applies primarily to young people. Of course, the journalist corps is in a position to do a great deal to ensure that the noble topic of fraternal unity among all our country's nations and nationalities be constantly and everywhere adequately reflected in the pages of newspapers and journals, in television and radio broadcasts.

As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted, it is important to educate people, primarily young people, primarily using the example of those who offered their lives for the revolution, for socialism.

As we can see, no matter what aspect of public life is under discussion, our press, television, raio, and journalism at large and everywhere have now to pass an earnest political test of maturity and the ability to work in a new way.

The businesslike discussion held at the congress showed that the journalists of the Soviet Ukraine have correctly comprehended the responsible tasks confronting them. Joint efforts are needed, comrades, to fully transform the journalist's word into a deed.

Allow me to wish you much creative success in this effort.

The Ukraine's journalists congress was addressed by V.N. Sevruk, Propaganda Department deputy chief in the CPSU Central Committee.

In the adopted resolution, the congress drew up measures to improve the effectiveness of the republic's press, and increase its role in accomplishing socioeconomic tasks.

The congress elected a new Board and Auditing Commission of the Ukraine's Journalists Union.

A board plenum of the Ukraine's Journalists Union elected N.A. Shibik as board chairman, A.V. Okhmakevich as deputy chairman.

At its session, the Auditing Commission of the Ukraine's Journalists Union elected I.I. Muzychenko as its chairman.

UKRAINIAN CP CC PRESSES FOR CHANGES

AU240850 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 19 Feb 87 p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat has examined the part of the republic's press in the restructuring of work, in promoting openness, criticism, and self-criticism. It has been noted that in restructuring their work in the spirit of the requirements of the 27th party congress and the June 1986 and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee plenums, obkom, gorkom, and raykom press organs have begun to more actively highlight the changes taking place in all spheres of life, the work carried out to accelerate socioeconomic development, and their struggle against shortcomings, against infringements of legality and of the norms of communist ethics has become more resolute.

At the same time it has been noted that many editorial collectives were overcoming, with difficulty, adherence to obsolete forms and methods of work, ostentation, and verbal blather. Newspapers still have not assumed a principled position with regard to those who are adapting themselves to restructuring, substituting verbiage for organizational functions, and only creating outer appearances of acceleration. Many local press organs do not notice innovations, insufficiently aspire to spread and to apply advanced experience, and are not persistent enough in promoting openness, criticism, and self-criticism.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has been instructed to discuss these issues at party meetings held within editorial boards of oblast, city, and rayon newspapers with the participation of appropriate party committee secretaries in the spirit of the requirements brought forward at the February 1987 meeting at the CPSU Central Committee headquarters with leaders of the mass media.

Organizational measures taken in the republic to implement the CPSU Central Committee decision on the work performed by the USSR Ministry of Communications to improve telephone and other communications services for the population have been examined. It has been noted that the population's needs in communications services still had not been fully met. The pace of expanding the telephone network in cities and villages is still insufficient, and television reception is not reliable everywhere. The quality of communications services, particularly of telephone services, is still poor; newspapers, letters, and cables are being delivered late; in repeated cases, mail is being lost. Many communication facilities -- particularly in Kharkov, Odessa, and Vinnitsa Oblasts -- are being built slowly, and the technical potential of the branch has been used insufficiently.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has called on the leaders of the Ukrainian Ministry of Communications to ensure that enterprises and organizations restructure their work in line with the decisions of the 27th party congress and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee plenum, and to increase responsibility for accelerating the branch's technical requipment and development, and for improvements in communications services.

Local administrative organs have been instructed to more vigorously improve the material-technical base at communications enterprises, as well as housing and living conditions for their workers. Particular attention is to be paid to communications services in the countryside. Obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms have been instructed to practically assist party organizations at communications enterprises in restructuring cadre work.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat has examined the progress made by the institutes of the Social Sciences Section of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in implementing the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. A report on the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee decision on this subject will be published.

A decision has been adopted on the RABOCHAYA GAZETA articles "One Cannot Write Everything Off" and "The Flood of Papers." It has been noted that the paper was right to submit to criticism the serious shortcomings in providing the builders of the Krivoy Rog mining and concentrating combine for ore oxidation with social and living conditions.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has called the attention of Dnepropetrovsk and Kirovograd Obkom Bureaus to the formal treatment given to the critical remarks in RABOCHAYA GAZETA, and obligated them to take effective steps to eliminate the shortcomings noted in the articles, and to bring the culprits to account.

The Ukrainian Ministries of Foreign Metallurgy, and of Installation and Special Construction, the Dnepr railroad administration, administrative and trade union organizations in Dnepropetrovsk and Kirovograd Oblasts have been instructed to see to it that problems concerning working and recreation conditions, consumer and communications services for the combine builders are settled without any delay.

MID-FEBRUARY WEATHER, CROP STATUS REVIEWED

PM051431 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Feb 87 p 3

[Agrometeorologist A. Grishina report: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] After the warm spell -- it is cold. In the south of the country growth is beginning.

In the greater part of the USSR's European territory warm weather was observed in the second 10-day period and at the begnning of the third 10-day period in February. From 23 February it grew colder in the majority of areas. In the northern half of the USSR's European territory the nighttime temperature dropped to between 15 and 25 degrees below zero. In the majority of places a small amount of snow fell.

In the south of Odessa, Nikolayev, Kherson, and Crimea Oblasts and in the greater part of Krasnodar Kray and the autonomous republics of the North Caucasus there was no snow on the fields of winter crops. In Kuban and the Crimea on individual days the growth of winter grain crops resumed. In the remaining territory in the European part of the USSR winter grain crops were in a dormant state under a snow cover 15 to 50 centimeters deep.

In the republics of the Transcaucasus warm weather continued, and the average air temperature exceeded the perennial average by 2-4 degrees. During the day the air temperature rose to between 10 and 15 degrees, and on the Black Sea coast to between 16 and 20 degrees. In Azerbaijan and Georgia winter grain crops grew for most of the 10-day period.

In the agricultural regions of West Siberia and in the north of Kazakhstan the frosts abated. During the day here the air temperature fluctuated from plus 1 to minus 6 degrees. The snow cover in the majority of regions of Siberia and north Kazakhstan was between 25 and 45 centimeters deep. The soil froze through from 130 to 170 centimeters. The wintering of winter grain crops and perennial grasses went well.

In the Central Asian republics and in the south of Kazakhstan it grew warmer. During the day the maximum air temperature rose to between 15 and 24 degrees. Winter grain crops grew almost the entire 10-day period. The growth of fruit-bearing plants resumed almost everywhere. Swelling and opening of buds on apricot, peach, apple, cherry, and almond trees was noted.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCE PRODUCTION, PURCHASES VIEWED

LD260214 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Wintering at farms -- Data of the USSR Central Statistical Administration on milk purchases show that in the country as a whole, the stepping-up of production and procurements of the livestock-farming produce are continuing. Our commentator stresses that the kolkhozes and sovkhozes have managed to overcome the extreme weather conditions of this winter. Over January and the 1st half of February, for example, 8 percent more of milk has been delivered to the processing enterprises than a year ago.

The biggest increase has been achieved in Belorussia, Estonia and the Russian Federation. Livestock farmers of all union republics except Tajikistan, which farms recorded a drop of 0.5 percent, have been overfulling the plans. Also, more livestock and poultry has been purchased in the country as a whole than by this date a year ago. The best results have been shown by the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan, albeit in seven union republics less meat has been procured than over the same period last year.

We have been told in the USSR Agroprom that the failure in Moldavia can be explained by a surcharge of the meat combines: sovkhozes and kolkhozes have started delivering better-fatted livestock, and enterprises of the processing industry are not coping with the increasing influx of products. As regards the Soviet Baltic republics, farms there had to suspend dispatches of livestock to meat combines due to heavy frosts. After the cold spell receded, the rates of livestock purchases have increased again, and the USSR Gosagroprom expresses confidence in the fact that all union republics will cope with the quarterly plans.

PROGRESS-28 DOCKS WITH MANNED COMPLEX 5 MAR

LD051444 Moscow TASS in International Service in Russian 1406 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar (TASS) -- The Progress-28 spacecraft docked with the orbital manned complex Mir-Soyuz-TM-2 at 1543 today Moscow time. The mutual searching, rendezvous, mooring and docking were performed by means of automatic equipment aboard the spacecraft. These processes were monitored by the Flight Control Center in cooperation with the ground command and measurement complex, as well as with Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin. The cargo spacecraft has been docked to the station on the side of its equipment compartment. The Progress-28 spacecraft has delivered into orbit fuel for the unified engine installation, products, water, equipment and apparatus for upgrading the equipment of the Mir station, as well as mail.

According to telemetric data and the crew's reports on the onboard systems of the manned Mir-Soyuz-TM-2-Progress-28 complex are functioning normally. The cosmonauts are in good health.

COSMONAUTS' ACTIVITIES ON MIR STATION DETAILED

LD061224 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 6 TASS -- A TASS correspondent reports from the Mission Control Center:

Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin have been working in space for one month now. The crew has carried out all operations planned for that period, fitting out the main module with additional instruments and equipment, and has fulfilled all assignments under the research program.

As reported earlier, another automatic cargo spaceship docked with the Mir space station March 5. After checking the docking unit for air leaks the cosmonauts opened the hatches, inspected the delivered equipment and began to unload it.

Apart from the handling of cargo from Progress-28 the program for today envisions experiments to study the behavior of hydrosols and aerosols at zero-gravity, visual observation and photography by manual cameras of individual areas of land and the ocean.

Under the program for the study of materials in space a series of vikhr (whirlwind) experiments was carried out in the Pion-m (Peony) unit. The purpose of the tests is to study convective currents in liquid induced by surface tension forces in case there is a temperature gradient.

According to telemetrid data and crew reports, the flight of the manned Mir space complex is proceeding normally.

Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin are in good health and feel well.

MODULAR ASSEMBLY OF SPACE STATIONS DISCUSSED

LD022039 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] In our first item our science correspondent Boris Belitskiy speaks of the role of orbital stations in the peaceful exploration of space:

[Belitskiy] As you may have heard, another crew is now working aboard the Soviet station Mir, which is the Russian word for peace. The crew consists of Yuriy Romanenko, a veteran of two previous space flights, and Aleksandr Laveykin, a space rookie. They arrived on board the station on Sunday, 8 February, after a flight from earth in the Soyuz-TM-2 transport craft. Soviet space scientists have created a number of orbital stations and they have been used for prolonged space missions. One mission, aboard the Salyut-7 station, for example, lasted for 237 days, which is the current space endurance record. All in all Soviet cosmonauts have now made about 10 flights of several months' duration. But such flights are not a goal in themselves, and are certainly not made for the sake of breaking records. One of the main objectives is to establish the optimal duration of a space mission, that is the duration enabling a cosmonaut to work in orbit with the best results.

What we're witnessing now is the beginning of work aboard a permanently operating orbital complex centred on the Mir station with its six docking units.

Here's how this has been summed up by Vladimir Solovyev, the deputy flight director who, by the way, was a member of the first crew aboard the Mir. He worked aboard the station last year for 4 months.

[Begin Solovyev recording in Russian, fading to English translation and paraphrase] Vladimir Solovyev described Mir as a space station of a new generation. It's more comfortable than its predecessors, it has a higher degree of automation and is better suited for efficient research work. There is now the possibility of docking whole research laboratories and workshops with it, after they have been appropriately equipped on the ground. This will also promote international cooperation in space research, since such modules can carry quite large instruments made in other countries. The first such module is to be launched in the first half of this year; it will carry astrophysical instruments designed by scientists in the Soviet Union, Britain, Federal Germany and Holland. [end recording]

[Belitskiy] The scope of work in space is growing from year to year; in this respect the Mir station is the present day and the morrow of space flight, but what will follow it? In the press there has been talk of space stations in the pipeline that will accommodate crews of 100 people and more. The launching of such enormous stations in one piece would be extremely difficult. For example, launching a station with a mass of 1,000 [metric] tons would require a giant rocket with a launch mass of hundreds of thousands, or even a million tons. This is obviously unacceptable. A far more expedient course is that which is actually being tested with the Mir station. This is the assembly in orbit of a big complex from separate blocks capable of operating in space either as part of the complex or autonomously. In principle this makes it possible to assemble space structures of any size and any purpose, research labs and production facilities, environmental monitoring outposts, and, say, reflectors for bouncing sunlight on polar regions in winter. In general terms the same approach could be applied to establishing whole human colonies in space. This task shouldn't of course be treated in simplified form, but it is a goal first formulated by that outstanding Russian space pioneer Konstantin Tsiolkovskiy at the beginning of the century.

GENERAL TRETYAK WRITES ARMY, NAVY DAY ARTICLE

PM051117 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 9, Feb 87 (signed to press 19 Feb 87) p 9

[Article by Army General I. Tretyak, USSR deputy defense minister and chief inspector: "For the Sake of Peaceful Creation; 23 February Is Soviet Army and Navy Day"]

[Text] Our country is celebrating the holiday of the whole people -- Soviet Army and Navy Day -- at a most important stage of its development. The ambitious program for the restructuring of all aspects of Soviet society contains only creative plans and must be implemented under conditions of peace.

"The party does not slacken for a single moment the efforts to further enhance the country's defense capability," the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum noted, "and assigns to military cadres a special role in the solution of this vitally important task. This is what determines their enormous responsibility to the people. The Soviet Armed Forces are also experiencing restructuring."

The changes taking place in the country make it incumbent upon all Army and Navy personnel to improve their field, air, and sea training and to constantly master new modern types of combat equipment and weapons. Commanders, political organ and staff workers, and party and Komsomol organizations are persistently struggling to strengthen discipline, organization, and order in units and ships and to achieve high qualitative indicators in military labor, which is an absolute condition for boosting combat readiness.

The Soviet Armed Forces -- the first army of the new socialist type in world history -- have traveled a long and heroic path. Their organization and development are inseparably linked with the name of V.I. Lenin and the activity of the Communist Party.

Guided by Lenin's teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland, the party embarked in January 1918 on the creation of a mass, regular, and disciplined army. It grew up in the years of the Civil War in combat against the enemies of Soviet power, its combat ability strengthened, and its ranks multiplied. The new socialist social system displayed mighty and insuperable strength. The young Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, without combat experience and suffering from acute shortages of weapons, provisions, and uniforms, totally routed the combined forces of internal counterrevolution and the imperialist aggressors and upheld and consolidated the gains of Great October.

The Red Army's makeup changed substantially after the Civil War and in the years of the first peaceful 5-year plan periods. New categories of troops were created and existing ones were reorganized thanks to the party's unflagging concern. The socialist economy's rapid development made it possible to considerably improve their technical supplies and their standards of combat readiness and combat ability.

When the conflagration of World War II started drawing inexorably closer to our motherland's borders, the party and the Soviet Government were forced to take more energetic measures to further consolidate the state's defense capability. [paragraph continues]

This marked the beginning of the process of the Red Army's rearmament and reorganization. The defense industry developed at accelerated speed, a second military-industrial base was created in the east of the country, and strenuous work was done to stockpile reserves of the most important strategic materials, to develop transportation, and to train cadres.

That was the time of the creation of new tanks, including the renowned T-34 and KV-1, and the Yak-1, MIG-1, LAGG-3, IL-2, and PE-2 aircraft, and the development of the M-13 rocket launcher, the famous "Katyusha." By 1941 the production capacities of Soviet aviation industry and tank building were almost 50 percent greater than the corresponding capacities of Hitler's Germany. During the period between January 1939 and January 1941 alone state reserves and mobilization stocks increased fivefold in terms of cast iron, doubled in terms of rolled metal, and almost doubled in terms of copper. There were sufficient provision stocks to meet the Army's and the Navy's needs for a 4-6 month period.

And even though we did not manage, did not have time to completely fulfill all plans on time, the decisive prerequisites for the defense of the socialist fatherland had been created.

The Great Patriotic War was the harshest trial of the Soviet people. The Army and the Navy, guided by Lenin's party and relying on the country's increased economic potential and the support of the whole people, not only withstood this monstrously powerful blow by the enemy but also completely routed Hitler's war machine and liberated the peoples in Europe and the world forever from the threat of fascist enslavement.

Our people bore the main burden of the war. The courage and staunchness of Soviet people, the grandeur of their feats, and the liberation mission and heroism of the USSR Armed Forces still generate admiration and profound gratitude among all progressive mankind.

The routing of fascism in the Great Patriotic War confirmed the great viability and invincibility of the world's first socialist country and was a triumph for our social and state system, the Marxist-Leninist ideology, and the unbreakable friendship of the USSR peoples. The victory that was gained proved the superiority of Soviet military science and military art and the high standard of our military cadres' strategic leadership and combat skills.

At the same time, that was not only a political and military victory but also an economic victory based on the better economic system of socialism, which managed to ensure the purposeful and efficient utilization of the country's material and human resources and to mobilize literally all of society's strength to crush the enemy.

It is well known, for example, that Germany, which exploited to the maximum the economic potential of the whole of West Europe and produced several times more coal, steel, and electricity than the USSR, nevertheless produced during the war years only about half the amount of combat equipment produced by Soviet industry. The scope, scale, and unprecedentedly brief time taken for the mass evacuation of Soviet industry to the eastern regions are amazing.

War production grew at unprecedented pace. Already by the first half of 1942, compared with the second half of 1941, tank production had more than doubled, field artillery production had doubled, antitank artillery production had increased fourfold and mortar production threefold, and production of submachine guns and antitank weapons had increased sixfold.

In 1943 the aviation industry produced 34,900 aircraft, 37.1 percent more than in 1942 and 9,700 aircraft more than fascist Germany produced. The tank industry supplied 24,000 tanks and self-propelled guns, 13,400 more than manufactured in fascist Germany. By that time, the achievements of Soviet heavy industry -- whose destruction was hastily proclaimed by enemy propaganda -- made it possible to raise the annual casting of iron to 5.6 million metric tons and of steel to 8.5 million metric tons and annual rolled metal production to 5.7 million metric tons.

All this was achieved through the titanic labor of the Soviet people in the rear. Communists and major economic organizers headed the most important people's commissariats. The tank industry, for example, was led by V.A. Malyshev, aviation industry by A.I. Shakhurin, the armaments industry by D.F. Ustinov, and heavy machine building by P.S. Kazakov. Many other eminent economists and economic managers worked selflessly in different positions, devoting all their energy to the buildup of the country's defense industry and thus providing the material backing for successful military operations.

Much time has elapsed since then. For the 5th decade now Soviet people are living and working under conditions of peace. During these years our Army and Navy, absorbing everything useful and rational from past war experience, have changed fundamentally: Qualitative changes have occurred in technical supplies, organization, and the development of military art.

Today the USSR Armed Forces are a mighty combat monolith, representing permanent fusion of ideological staunchness, military skill, and high level of technical provision. Flesh of the working people's flesh, they share their lives and play an active part in socialist building.

Thousands of army and Navy representatives are deputies to state organs of power or members of central or local party organs. Sponsorship ties between servicemen's units and subunits and labor collectives have spread everywhere. Seervicemen participate in the construction of industrial and housing projects and railroads and in agricultural work and help the population in times of natural disasters. Each year a large detachment of demobilized servicemen make their way to all-union shock labor construction sites.

The fraternal armies of socialist states stand shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Armed Forces. Their combat collaboration, born out of the struggle against fascism, has turned into the mighty combat alliance of the Warsaw Pact Organization, a reliable shield across the path of agressive aspirations by the reaction.

The establishment of military-strategic parity between the USSR and the United States and between the warsaw Pact Organization and NATO is socialism's most important historic gain in the last few decades.

But the equilibrium which was achieved at the cost of tremendous efforts and material expenditure is in jeopardy at present. Unwilling to grasp the realities of the nuclear and space age, the United States and its NATO allies have launched an unprecedented arms race, eager to gain military superiority at any cost and to acquire an opportunity to deliver a nuclear first strike with impunity.

They relay mainly on the militarization of space and the creation [sozdaniye] of new and even more destructive weapon systems, primarily high-power laser weapons, neutron bombs, and spacecraft of the "Columbia" type. [paragraph continues]

Particular hopes are placed on the deployment of the so-called ABM system with space-based elements, whose basic component, as is well known, are strike space means based on new principles of physics.

An important role is being assigned to the improvement and buildup of already existing systems which, in the opinion of Western specialists themselves, will make it possible to create [sozdat] one more strategic offensive potential within a decade. Here one has to list the Pershing-2 ballistic missiles, cruise missiles of all modes, the MX and Midgetman ICBM's, the Trident-2 SLBM, and the B-1B and the Stealth ATB [Advanced Technology Bomber] strategic aircraft.

The bringing of the 131st B-52 bomber fitted with cruise missiles into service with operational strategic forces is yet another proof of the U.S. attempts to break the strategic parity. By means of this step the U.S. Administration deliberately torpedoed the SALT II Treaty in its desire to free its hands for the implementation of its planned programs.

It is perfectly obvious that the arms race which is being forced upon us, in addition to pursuing the imperialism's aggressive intentions, sets the goal of economically exhausting the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries, because the rapid growth of technical complexity leads to a sharp rise in the cost of the means for armed struggle.

It is well known, however, that similar attempts were made before, and they invariably ended in failure. This is what awaits Washington and its allies in the future. "...We will never allow nuclear missile superiority by the United States," M.S. Gorbachev pointed out at the CPSU Central Committee June (1986) Plenum. "Here our Leninist foreign policy course and our defense might are founded on the reliable base of the strategy of accelerated socioeconomic development...."

The Land of the Soviets is confidently marching along the path mapped by the 27th CPSU Congress. We have the people to defend and the means with which to protect the peaceful and creative labor and freedom of Soviet people and of our friends and allies.

The Soviet Armed Forces have been guarding peace and socialism for 69 years now, threatening no one but always ready to repulse any aggression, no matter where it may originate.